

Zercon carpathicus Sellnick, 1958 (Acari: Zerconidae), a species of mite new for the Turkish fauna

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Abstract. *Zercon carpathicus* Sellnick, 1958 is recorded from Turkey for the first time. The distribution area thus extends much further south than was previously known. The morphological characters of this species are reviewed and figures are drawn. Its geographic distribution is given.

Kurzfassung. Die Bodenmilbe *Zercon carpathicus* Sellnick, 1958 wird erstmals aus der Türkei gemeldet, womit sich das bekannte Areal der Art bedeutend weiter nach Süden ausdehnt. Die morphologischen Merkmale der Art werden dargestellt und illustriert. Die bekannte Verbreitung wird dargestellt.

Key words. Acari, taxonomy, Zerconidae, *Zercon carpathicus*, Turkey.

Introduction

Of the 38 genera of the family of Zerconidae known from the northern hemisphere, only three (*Prozercon*, *Rafas* and *Zercon*) are known from Turkey. Based on the number of species in Turkey, the genus *Zercon* is the most speciose in the family Zerconidae and 35 species of this genus have been recorded from Turkey so far (BLASZAK 1979, URHAN 2007). In this paper, I report a species of this genus additional for Turkey, namely *Zercon carpathicus* Sellnick, 1958. It was described by SELLNICK (1958) on the basis of material collected from Romania. The species was subsequently found in Latvia, Poland, Slovakia and the Ukraine by HALAŠKOVÁ (1969), BLASZAK (1974), PETROVA (1977), KARG (1993) and MASAN & PENDA (2004).

Soil and litter samples were collected from Uludağ mountain (Bursa province). The samples were placed in plastic bags, labelled and transferred to the laboratory. The soil and litter samples were then placed into combined Berlese funnels and mites were extracted for 5-7 days according to their humidity. At the end of this process, the contents of the bottles were transferred into petri dishes and mites were separated under a stereo-microscope. They were placed in lactic acid (60%) in order to facilitate examination. The examination and drawing of mites were made under an Olympus BX50 microscope.

Zercon carpathicus Sellnick, 1958 (Figs 1-5)

Material: 13 ♂, 37 ♀ and 5 deutonymphs; Uludağ mountain (Bursa prov., Turkey), 1230 m, 15.v.2002. Sample of litter and soil in a mixed forest (mostly *Pinus* sp. and *Alnus* sp.). Material deposited in the Department of Zoology of Pamukkale University, Denizli (Turkey).

Female (Figs 1-2). Idiosoma (excluding gnathosoma) in the specimens: mean length 441 (425-463) µm, mean width 382 (348-408) µm.