

Contributions to the genus *Prozercon* Sellnick, 1943 (Acarı: Zerconidae) from Turkey, with the description of two new species and a key to species

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Abstract. Two new species of zerconid mites, *Prozercon balikesirensis* sp. n. and *Prozercon bu-raki* sp. n., from Turkey are described and illustrated. A key to adults of the genus *Prozercon* known from Turkey is given.

Key words. Acari, taxonomy, Zerconidae, *Prozercon*, Turkey.

Introduction

The genus *Prozercon* was described in 1943 by SELLNICK, with the type species *Zercon fimbriatus* C. L. Koch, 1839. This genus has subsequently been studied by HALAŠKOVÁ (1963); recent studies with the descriptions of new species include MAŠÁN & FENĎA (2004) and MORAZA (1990, 2006). The subgenus *Prozercon* (*Plumatozercon*) was erected by BALAN (1992) to accommodate species in which seta p1 on the peritremal shield is plumose. The genus now comprises about 42 species worldwide. It is the second richest genus of Zerconidae in Turkey, based on the number of species, and so far 18 species of *Prozercon* have been recorded from Turkey (URHAN 1998, 2002). During studies of the zoogeographic distribution of zerconid mites in Turkey, two undescribed species were found and are described in this paper as a contribution to understanding the acarine faunal richness of Turkey.

Material and methods

Soil and litter samples were collected in 2007 from Bigadiç and Kandıra districts in Turkey. They were placed in plastic bags, labelled and transferred to the laboratory. Samples were placed into Berlese funnels, and mites were extracted for 5–7 days according to their moisture content. At the end of this process, the contents of the collecting bottles from the funnels were transferred into Petri dishes and mites were separated under a stereo-microscope. They were placed in 60% lactic acid for clearing and then mounted on permanent microscope slides using a glycerine medium. The examination and drawing of mites were done using an Olympus BX50 microscope. Morphological terminology used in the descriptions follows SELLNICK (1958), HALAŠKOVÁ (1969), BŁASZAK (1974) and MAŠÁN & FENĎA (2004).

Descriptions

***Prozercon balikesirensis* sp. n. (Figs 1 A-F)**

Material: Holotype: ♀, Balıkesir, Bigadiç district, Aşağıgöcek village (39°40'N, 28°42'E), 800–900 m a.s.l., 22.xii.2007. Sample of litter and soil in a coniferous forest (mostly *Pinus* sp.). – Paratypes: 5 ♂, 3 ♀, 2 deutonymphs and 2 protonymphs, same data as holotype. Type deposition: