

A contribution to knowledge of the tachinid fly fauna of Fars province, Iran

(Diptera: Tachinidae: Dexiinae and Phasiinae)

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Abstract. Data are given on the distribution of 18 species of Tachinidae collected from Fars province, 9 of which are new for Iran and all of which are reported for the first time from Fars province.

Key words. Diptera, Tachinidae, Iran, Fars, distribution, Middle East.

Introduction

The family Tachinidae forms one of the largest and most diverse families of Diptera (Brachycera). The number of species worldwide is estimated to be about 10,000 (e.g. T-SCHORSNIG & BARTÁK 2001) which are placed in 4 subfamilies: Exoristinae, Tachininae, Dexiinae and Phasiinae. The actual size of the family is certainly much larger because the Neotropical, Afrotropical, Oriental and Australasian regions contain large numbers of undescribed species (O'HARA 2005).

The Iranian fauna of Tachinidae is very poorly known. Most of the records are scattered in the literature and there are only a few short notes dealing with the family in Iran. SAMET et al. (1977) reported 17 species, and MODERRES-AWAL (1994) cited 50 valid species of Tachinidae in his list of agricultural pests and their natural enemies in Iran. Only 5 species are recorded in Fars province. Although some studies have recently been conducted by various local scientists on the species of Tachinidae occurring in Fars and Iran (e.g. ABAI 1976, ALIZADE & JAVAN MOGHADDAM 2004, DEGHANI et al. 2006, ESMAILI 1968, MAHANI et al. 2003, PARCHAMI 1994, SALEHI & KHARAZI PAKDEL 1983), the Iranian fauna of this family is not well known. In this paper we report on some described tachinid species from the Fars province of Iran.

A total 18 species belonging to 13 genera was collected, all of which are reported for the first time from Fars province and 10 of which are new for the Iranian tachinid fauna. In addition, *Estheria* sp. and *Besseria* sp. were identified to genus. Only *E. pallicornis* (Loew) has previously been recorded from Iran and it seems that the species is a new record. The species of *Besseria* is near to *B. melanura* (Meigen), in which the wing $r_4 + 5$ cell has a long petiole. The subfamily Phasiinae with 29.8% and Dexiinae with 8.7% of the total specimens collected were high and low in their numbers of species, respectively.

Material and methods

This paper is a result of 22 collection trips to different localities of Fars province during the years 2006-2007. The tachinids were captured by sweep net, in flight, or when landing on the ground or