

A new species of *Smaris* Latreille, 1796 from Iran

(Acari: Smarididae)

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Abstract. *Smaris maraghehiensis* sp. n. (Acari: Smarididae) is described and illustrated from larvae free-living on soil (off host) from Maragheh, Iran. It is the third species of *Smaris* Latreille, 1796 based on larvae which is reported from outside Australia. A key to the larvae of *Smaris* is presented.

Key words. Parasitengona, new species, larva, ectoparasite, key.

Introduction

“The mite family Smarididae Vitzhum, 1929 is cosmopolitan, most members being known as adults. The adults and deutonymphs are small, generally have flattened structure, and live as predators in litter or under bark of trees. These mites are mostly known from their adult instars. The larvae are probably all ectoparasitic on small arthropods, as is the case with most other members of the superfamily Erythraeoidea” (SOUTHCOTT 1997). Larval stages of Smarididae are poorly known (GABRYŠ 1989) and for the genus *Smaris* Latreille, 1796 only two species are known: *S. prominens* (Banks, 1916) is known from larval and postlarval instars: the larvae were found as ectoparasites of small Psocoptera (*Liposcelis* sp., *Liposcelis divinatorius* (Linnaeus) and *Pteroxanium kellogi* (Rib.)) (WOMERSLY & SOUTHCOTT 1941) whereas the other species, *S. arenicola* Southcott, 1997, is known only from the larva which was collected from soil and litter samples and extracted by Berlese funnel (SOUTHCOTT 1997).

Representatives of three genera of Smarididae, namely *Smaris*, *Fessonia* and *Hirstiosoma*, were reported from Iran based on post-larval instars (SABOORI et al. 2007). In this paper, we describe a new larva of *Smaris* from Maragheh, East Azerbaijan province, Iran.

Terminology and abbreviations are adapted from ROBAUX (1974) and SABOORI et al. (2009). Measurements are given in micrometres (μm). Drawings and measurements were done under oil immersion using a microscope equipped with differential interference phase-contrast and camera lucida.

Smaris maraghehiensis sp. n. (Figs 1-10)

Type material. Holotype [ARS-20100224-1a] and paratypes [ARS-20100224-1b & 1c] deposited at ‘Jalal Afshar Zoological Museum’, College of Agriculture, University of Tehran, Karaj, Iran. Specimens were collected in Maragheh (37°23'N, 46°16'E, 1450 m a.s.l., East Azarbaijan province, Iran, on soil (15 July 2007), by Mohammad BAGHERI and extracted using a Berlese funnel. Specimens are preserved in 70% ethanol, subsequently cleared in