

## Water mites of the *Sperchon denticulatus* species group (Acari, Hydrachnidia, Sperchontidae) from Turkey and Iran

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### Abstract

This paper deals with the water mite species of the *Sperchon denticulatus*-species group (Acari, Hydrachnidia, Sperchontidae) from Turkey and Iran. *Sperchon akdagensis* Aşçi, Bursali & Özkan, 2010 is synonymized with *S. hibernicus* Halbert, 1944; *S. cf. senguni* Özkan, 1982 is reported for the first time for Iran.

**Key words:** water mites, *Sperchon*, taxonomy, new records, Turkey, Iran

### Introduction

Water mites of the genus *Sperchon* Kramer, 1877 have been found in all biogeographic regions except for Indo-Australia and Antarctica.

*Sperchon denticulatus* Koenike, 1895, *S. vaginosus* Thor, 1902, *S. violaceus* Walter, 1944, *S. hibernicus* Halbert, 1944 and *S. senguni* Özkan, 1982, form a monophyletic group (*denticulatus* species group). Because females of this group are difficult to identify (except *S. violaceus* which is distinguished by colouration of sclerotized parts), identification is based on the males only. According to Di Sabatino *et al.* (2010), the morphology of the anterior ramus of the ejaculatory complex is a useful character for separation of males at the species level.

At present three species of the *denticulatus*-species group (*S. denticulatus* Koenike, 1895, *S. senguni* Özkan, 1982 and *S. akdagensis* Aşçi, Bursali & Özkan, 2010) are known from Turkey (Erman *et al.* 2010; Aşçi *et al.* 2010). However, thus far there are no records of the three species of *denticulatus*-species group from Iran (see: Pesic & Saboori 2007).

The aim of this paper is to contribute to the diversity and distribution of sperchontid water mites of the *Sperchon denticulatus* - species group from Turkey and Iran.

### Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted on the spot from the living material and preserved in Koenike's fluid; some of them were dissected and mounted in Hoyer's fluid. These mites were identified with the aid of the diagnoses, descriptions and identification keys presented in Di Sabatino *et al.* (2010).

The composition of the material is given as: males/females/nymphs (in parentheses: males/females/nymphs mounted in Hoyer's fluid). All measurements are given in µm. The following abbreviations are used: Cx-1 to Cx-4 = coxae 1 to 4, L = dorsal length, NHMB = Naturhistorisches Museum Basel, P-1 to P-5 = palp segments 1 to 5, W = width.