

## A new species of *Christovizetes* Krivolutsky (Acari: Oribatida: Microzetidae) from Iran

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### Abstract

*Christovizetes iranensis* **sp. nov.** (Acari: Oribatida: Microzetidae) is described from Shiraz, Fars Province, Iran. The new species is characterized by long setiform sensilli that are densely ciliate with short cilia; lamellar cusps with four teeth, the outer two much longer than the inner two, and large pteromorphae with dentate anterodistal and lateral margins.

**Key words:** Acari, Oribatida, Microzetidae, *Christovizetes*, new species, Iran

### Introduction

The genus *Christovizetes* of the family Microzetidae Grandjean was established by Krivolutsky (1975) with the Tajik species *Christovizetes ovatus* as the type species. According to him, it can be easily distinguished from other genera of this family by the long tibia that project from under the lamellae and bear many setae, lamellae with numerous teeth on their external edge, lamellae located marginally and joined by a narrow translamella, and long lamellar setae. Balogh and Balogh (1992) also used the following to key out the genus: short interlamellar setae that originate in the interlamellar region, backwardly directed sensilli, notogaster circular or wider than long, pteromorphae projecting laterally from the body, nearly parallel lamellae with cusps not meeting and interlamellar tubercle absent. However, interlamellar setae originating in the interlamellar region is no longer a differentiating character state as one member species has them on the lamellar surfaces. Mahunka (1995) reported the second species of the genus, *C. prasadi*, from Thailand and differentiated it from the type species by the position and length of the rostral setae, the position of the interlamellar and notogastral setae, the form of the lamellar cusps, and the form and length of the sensilli.

During 2009–2010, in the course of a faunistic survey of oribatid mites of Shiraz, Fars Province, southern Iran, one unnamed species belonging to the family Microzetidae was collected. In this paper we describe the new species, which is named *C. iranensis* **sp. nov.** It is the third species of the genus and the first record of *Christovizetes* from Iran.

### *Christovizetes iranensis* sp. nov. (Figs 1–3)

*Material examined.* Two specimens (holotype and paratype): Badjgah Village, Shiraz, Fars Province, southern Iran, soil under hawthorn shrubs (*Crataegus* sp.), 29°32'N, 52°35'E, 1810m above sea level, 10.VI.2010, M. Behmanesh leg. The specimens are deposited in the Department of Plant Protection, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.