

Article

A new species of the genus *Ledermuelleriopsis* Willmann (Acari: Stigmaeidae) from southern Iran

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Abstract

A new mite species, *Ledermuelleriopsis dogani* **sp. nov.** is described and illustrated based on material collected from *Euonymus japonicus* Thunberg (Celastraceae) and *Pinus pinea* L. (Pinaceae) at Marvdasht, Fars province. The dorsal setae of the new species are clavate-spinose and the coxisternal shields are smooth. A key to all known world species of the genus is given.

Key words: Biological control, predatory mites, taxonomy, Prostigmata

Introduction

Stigmaeid mites are abundant during spring and summer in Hamedan orchards, as well as other parts of Iran (Khanjani, 2004; Khanjani & Ueckermann, 2008; pers. obs.). They are well known for controlling pest species, preying on eggs and larvae of spider mites and also scale insects. Currently this family comprises 32 genera. The known species of the genus *Ledermuelleriopsis* Willmann and their hosts and distribution are shown in Table 1. In this paper the twenty-seventh species is described.

Materials and methods

The mites in this study were extracted from soil with a Berlese funnel. Specimens were mounted in Hoyer's medium and examined with an Olympus BX₅₁ phase contrast microscope at 1000X magnification. All drawings were made using a camera Lucida. Body length measurements represent the distance between the base of the gnathosoma and the end of the idiosoma; width was measured at the broadest part of idiosoma, just anterior to legs III. The setae were measured from the setal base to the tip of the seta; distances between setae were measured between setal bases. The terminology and setal notations used in the description of the new species follow that of Grandjean (1939, 1944) as adapted by Kethley (1990). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm) and the measurements of the paratype follow in brackets.