

A new species of *Aegyptobia* Sayed, 1950 (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae) from Iran

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Abstract

A new species of *Aegyptobia* (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae), namely *A. khanjani* **sp. nov.** from *Astragalus* sp. (Fabaceae), is described from Kerman province, Iran. This species belongs to the *A. tragardhi* species group.

Key words: taxonomy, description, new species, fauna, Kerman.

Introduction

Aegyptobia is a diverse genus of flat mites that is split into two groups based on the form of the tarsal claws: the *macswaini* group, with pad-like tarsal claws, and the *tragardhi* group, with the typical uncinatate tarsal claws. Of the 94 described species of *Aegyptobia*, 11 species have been recorded in Iran: *A. bromi* Khanjani *et al.*, 2012; *A. hormozgani* Farzan *et al.*, 2012; *A. iranensis* Khanjani *et al.*, 2008; *A. jiroftiensis* Farzan *et al.*, 2012; *A. nazarii* Khanjani *et al.*, 2012; *A. persicae* Khosrowshahi & Arbabi, 1997; *A. pirii* Khanjani *et al.*, 2013; *A. beglarovi* Livschitz & Mitrofanov, 1967; *A. glyptus* Pritchard & Baker, 1958; *A. pavlovskii* (Reck, 1951); and *A. tragardhi* Sayed, 1950 (Kamali *et al.*, 2001; Khanjani *et al.* 2012). Of these species, the first seven are assumed to be endemic to Iran, while the latter four species were originally recorded from other countries: *A. beglarovi* from Ukraine, *A. glyptus* from Mexico (intercepted in Arizona, USA), *A. pavlovskii* from Georgia (redescribed by Farzan *et al.* 2012), and *A. tragardhi* from Egypt.

In this work we describe a new species of *Aegyptobia*. This widespread genus is well represented in the country, yet considering the minimal work on flat mites in Iran we expect many more species remain undescribed.

Material and Methods

Leaves and twigs infested by mites were collected, placed into plastic bags and transferred to the laboratory. Samples were washed in a solution of commercial detergent (5%). This solution was filtered by overlapping two sieves with different mesh sizes (16 Mesh; 400 Mesh) respectively. Mites retained in the smaller sieve were washed with 70% ethanol into a Petri dish. Flat mites were collected from the ethanol solution under a stereomicroscope, cleared with lactic acid (at 45°C in an oven) and mounted in Hoyer's medium.