A new species of *Tetranychus* Dufour, 1832 (Acari, Trombidiformes: Tetranychidae) from Iran

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**Abstract**

*Tetranychus iraniensis* Mahdavi & Ueckermann **sp. nov.** (Tetranychidae) is described from *Salsola* sp. (Amaranthaceae) in Manujan-Kerman. This species belongs to the group one of *Tetranychus* by Flechtman and Knihinicki’s grouping. The new species is different from the other species in the group in having a peculiar shape of the aedeagus.

**Key words:** Prostigmata, taxonomy, fauna, Kerman, Iran

**Introduction**

Spider mites (Acari: Tetranychidae) are of agricultural importance as pests of various crops. Many members have genetically developed resistance against pesticides in a short time span. The costs incurred from crop losses and control strategies are measured in millions of dollars (Seeman & Beard, 2011). A total of about 140 species belong to the world-wide *Tetranychus* genus (Bolland *et al.* 1998; Ehara *et al.* 2008). Seven species of this genus are recorded from Iran (Kamali *et al.* 2001). We describe one more new species and increase the number to eight. A key to the known Iranian species is provided.

**Material and methods**

Mite infested leaves and twigs were collected, placed into plastic bags and transferred to the laboratory. Samples were washed in a solution of water and commercial detergent. This solution was filtered through a sieve (400 Mesh). Mites retained on the sieve were washed with 70% ethanol into a petri dish. Mites were collected under a stereomicroscope, cleared with lactic acid (at 45°C) and mounted in Hoyer’s medium. Mites were examined under an Olympus phase-contrast compound microscope. Measurements were done by means of a Dino-Eye® soft imaging system and are given in micrometers (µm). The drawings were made using a drawing tube attached to an Olympus® Research Microscope. Figures were cleaned and edited with Corel draw x5 2010 and Photoshop CS5, respectively.