

A new species of *Tenuipalpus* Donnadieu (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from Iran

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Abstract

Tenuipalpus zahirii Khanjani & Seeman **sp. nov.**, collected from leaves of hawthorn trees, *Crataegus monogyna* Jacq. (Rosaceae), and oleaster trees, *Elaeagnus angustifolia* L. (Elaeagnaceae), is illustrated and described from Simin, Hamedan Province, Iran. This species is the first member of the *Tenuipalpus proteae* species group from Iran. A key to all known Iranian species is provided.

Key words: Tenuipalpidae; *Tenuipalpus*; flat mite; hawthorn trees; Iran

Introduction

Tenuipalpus Donnadieu is the largest genus of the family Tenuipalpidae, being represented by 308 species (Mesa *et al.* 2009; De Moraes *et al.* 2011; Khanjani *et al.* 2012). The genus is split into two species groups, *caudatus* and *proteae*, themselves arranged in five and three subgroups, respectively (Baker & Tuttle 1987; Meyer 1993). The species groups are divided by the presence (*caudatus* group) or absence (*proteae* group) of dorsal seta *f*₂. The subgroups are organized according to the number of intercoxal setae *3a* and *4a*, which are sometimes present in multiples in species of *Tenuipalpus*.

The species of *Tenuipalpus* have a worldwide distribution but are more diverse in the Neotropical, Afrotropical and Oriental regions, with 66, 91 and 69 species, respectively (Mesa *et al.* 2009). Such patterns can be the result of prior research effort. However, the lower diversity of species in North America (19 spp.) and the Western Palearctic (30 spp.), which includes nations historically strong in Acarology, shows that *Tenuipalpus* is primarily a tropical and subtropical genus. Although Iran is mostly an arid country, it also comprises regions that could be loosely defined as subtropical. Furthermore, although Iran is part of the Western Palearctic region, it borders the *Tenuipalpus*-rich Oriental region, so one could expect the genus to be better represented. Nine species are known from Iran, namely: *Tenuipalpus eriophyoides* Baker; *T. punicae* Pritchard and Baker; *T. granati* Sayed; *T. portulacae* Parsi, Khosrowshahi & Farid; *T. euonymi* Khosrowshahi; *T. kamalii* Khosrowshahi and Arbabi; *T. parsii* Khosrowshahi and Arbabi; *T. daneshvari* Khosrowshahi and Arbabi; and *T. shishehboursi* Khanjani, Khanjani and Seeman (see Khanjani *et al.* 2013). In this paper a new species is described and illustrated from Hamedan, western Iran. The new species lacks seta *f*₂ and has two pairs of *4a*, and is thus a member of the *Tenuipalpus proteae*-group, *keiensis*-subgroup.