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Article

A new species of the genus *Baloghiella* Bulanova-Zachvatkina, 1966 (Oribatida: Haplozetidae) from Iran

MOHAMMAD ALI AKRAMI* & FOROUGH EBRAHIMI

Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Shiraz University, Shiraz, Iran.

* *Corresponding author: E-mail: akrami@shirazu.ac.ir*

Abstract

A new species of oribatid mite belonging to the family Haplozetidae, *Baloghiella foveolata* sp. nov., is described from Iran. The new species is characterized by the presence of round foveolae on the notogaster and ventral plate, long sensilli with a strongly dilated head that is pointed distally, strongly thickened lamellar setae, large sacculi with a long narrow neck and a short body length. An amended generic diagnosis is proposed.

Key words: Acari, Oribatida, Haplozetidae, *Baloghiella*, new species, Iran

Introduction

The oribatid mite genus *Baloghiella* Bulanova-Zachvatkina of the family Haplozetidae Grandjean, 1936 has, until now, been represented by only two species (Subías 2012). According to Balogh and Balogh (1992), this genus was proposed by Bulanova-Zachvatkina (1966), when she described a new species, *Baloghiella prima*, from Central Asia. They use the following characters to key the genus: thick and ciliate rostral setae; setiform sensilli, without dilated head, densely ciliate; four pairs of genital setae; 10 pairs of notogastral setae, and tridactylous legs. This genus was monotypic for many years until 2000, when Bayartogtokh and Akrami (2000) described the second species from central Iran.

During 2011–12, in the course of a faunistic survey of oribatid mites inhabiting pastures of Shiraz, Fars province, southern Iran, one species belonging to the genus *Baloghiella* was collected. In this paper we describe this third species of the genus, which is named *Baloghiella foveolata* sp. nov.

Materials and methods

Soil and litter samples were taken from the surface to a soil depth of 10 cm under different plants in the various pastures of Shiraz, Fars province, southern Iran. Oribatid mites were extracted from soil samples in Berlese-Tullgren funnels set over jars of 75% ethanol. Mites were removed, cleared in lactophenol, and mounted in Hoyer's medium on glass microscope slides. The slides were placed in an oven at 45°C for two weeks and then the specimens were examined using a light microscope (Zeiss Standard 20). Figures were made using a drawing tube attached to the microscope. All body measurements are presented in micrometers (µm). Body length was measured from the tip of the rostrum to the posterior edge of the notogaster, and body width refers to the maximum width of the notogaster in dorsal aspect.

