

***Neognathus sinaei* sp. nov. (Acari: Caligonellidae), a new species from western Iran**

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Abstract

A new mite species belonging to family Caligonellidae, *Neognathus sinaei* sp. nov., from western Iran (Mallayer vicinity, Hamedan province) is described and illustrated base on female and male from soil and litter under Russian olive trees, *Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.: Elaeagnaceae. A key to adult females of the genus *Neognathus* is also provided based in original descriptions and literatures.

Key words: mite, predator, Caligonellidae, Russian olive, Iran

Introduction

The genus *Neognathus* was erected by Willmann, 1952 with type species *N. insolitus* Willmann, 1952, from Germany. This genus members generally are free living predatory mites on various soil and litter (Chaudhri, Akbar & Rasool 1979; Hu, 1995; Meyer & Ueckermann 1989; Ueckermann 2008; Bagheri *et al.* 2010; Akyol & Koc 2012; Nazari *et al.* 2013). This genus currently contains 13 known species namely: *N. insolitus* Willmann, 1952 (Germany), *N. terrestris* (Summers & Schlinger 1955) (USA), *N. spectabilis* (Summers & Schlinger 1955) (USA), *N. orientalis* Soliman, 1971 (Egypt), *N. cinis* Chaudhri, Akbar & Rasool 1979 (Pakistan), *N. eupalopus* Meyer & Ueckermann 1989 (South Africa), *N. davei* Meyer & Ueckermann 1989 (South Africa), *N. jieliui* Hu & Yu, 1995 (China), *N. linanensis* Hu, 1995 (China), *N. harteni* Ueckermann, 2008 (South Africa), *N. ozkani* Akyol & Koç 2012, *N. ueckermanni* Bagheri, Doğan, Haddad Irani–Nejad, Kamali, Khanjani & Saboori, 2010 (Iran) and *N. rijabicus* Nazari, Khanjani & Kamali 2013 (Iran). In the past, five species, *N. terrestris* (Summers & Schlinger 1955) [by Ueckermann and Khanjani 2008], *N. ueckermanni* Bagheri, Doğan & Haddad Irani–Nejad, 2010, *N. spectabilis* (Summers & Schlinger 1955) [by Rahmdeli *et al.* 2011]; *N. eupalopus* Meyer & Ueckermann 1989 [by Changizi *et al.* 2011]; *N. rijabicus* Nazari, Khanjani & Kamali 2013, were recorded from Iran. In this study 14th species belonging to this genus is presented here.

Materials and Methods

The specimens were collected from soil and litter under Russian olive, *Elaeagnus angustifolia* L.: Elaeagnaceae, in Mallayer vicinity (Hamedan province), Western Iran. Mites were mounted directly on microscopic slides in Hoyer's medium. The slides were dried in an oven 50°C, sealed with nail polish and examined under an Olympus BX51 phase contrast and Differential Interference Contrast microscope. Drawings were made with a camera Lucida. The terminology, setal notations and leg