

Water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from interstitial waters of Iran, with the description of one new species

VLADIMIR PESIC¹, ALIREZA SABOORI², MAHDIEH ASADI² & REZA VAFAEI³

¹ Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Crna Gora, Cetinjski put b.b., 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro (pesicv@cg.yu)

² Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, University of Tehran, Karaj, Iran

³ Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran

Abstract

New records of water mites (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from interstitial waters of Iran are presented. Fourteen species are recorded, of which six are new for the studied area. *Kongsbergia persica* sp. nov. is described; the zoogeographical and ecological significance of these new records is discussed.

Key words: Acari, water mites, taxonomy, interstitial waters, new species, Iran

Introduction

The distribution of water mites in Iranian ground waters is poorly known. To date, only three papers have addressed this topic (Schwoerbel & Sepasgozarian 1980; Pesic 2004; Pesic *et al.* in press). The aim of this paper is to present new data that contribute to our knowledge on the morphology, geographical distribution, and habitat preference of Iranian members of the water mite species recently associated with subterranean habitats.

Material and Methods

Mites were collected from the interstitial habitat using the Karaman-Chappuis excavation technique and were sorted live in the laboratory under a stereo microscope. Specimens were preserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke 1991). The holotype of the new species will be deposited in the Museum of the Natural History of Podgorica (Crna Gora). In the section "Material examined", collecting site