

Water mites of the genus *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896 (Acari, Hydrachnidia, Torrenticolidae) from Iran, with description of two new species

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Abstract

Nine water mite species of the genus *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896 are reported from Iran. *Torrenticola irana* and *T. khorassanula* are described as new to science, and the first records for Iran are given for *T. brevirostris* (Halbert, 1911), *T. barsica* (Szalay, 1933), *T. amplexa* (Koenike, 1908) and *T. thori* (Halbert, 1944).

Key words: Acari, *Torrenticola*, taxonomy, new species, running waters, Iran

Introduction

Water mites of the genus *Torrenticola* Piersig, 1896 have been found in all biogeographic regions except for Australia and Antarctica (Wiles 1997). At present, ten species of the genus are known from Iran (Bader 1988; Bader & Sepasgozarian 1987; Pesic & Asadi 2002; Asadi *et al.* 2003; Pesic 2004; Pesic *et al.* 2004, 2005): *Torrenticola anomala* (Koch, 1837), *T. baueri* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1987, *T. saboorii* Pesic & Asadi, 2002, *T. disabatinola* Pesic, 2004, *T. nana* Di Sabatino & Gerecke, 2003 (in Di Sabatino *et al.* 2003), *T. jasmineae* Bader, 1988, *T. persica* Pesic, 2004, *T. ungeri* (Szalay, 1927), *T. ramini* Bader, 1988, and *T. wiljae* Bader, 1988. During a survey of the freshwater fauna of Iran, several species of the water mite genus *Torrenticola* were collected, including two new