

New species of zerconid mites from southern Europe and the Macaronesian region (Acari: Mesostigmata: Zerconidae)

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Abstract

Two new species of *Prozercon* and three new species of *Zercon* (Acari: Zerconidae) are described and illustrated on the basis of material collected from different habitats (natural, reforested and felled habitats) in Navarra (northern Spain) and Tenerife (Canary Islands).

Key words: Acari, Mesostigmata, Zerconidae, taxonomy, Iberian peninsula, Macaronesia

Introduccion

Zerconid mites, currently represented by 35 Holarctic genera, constitute an important component of the fauna in soil microhabitats in the northern hemisphere. The family Zerconidae is poorly known in southern Europe (Athias-Henriot, 1961; Karg, 1993; Moraza, 1989, 1990, 1999; Petrova, 1977; Sellnick, 1958; Urhan 1997–2002; Urhan & Ayyildiz, 1993–2002). The southernmost continental species of the Palaearctic region were reported from Algeria (Athias-Henriot, 1961) and Tunisia (Błaszak, 1979), and recently other species of *Zercon* was reported from Tenerife (Canary Islands) (Moraza & Peña, 2005) in the Macaronesian region. The data in the present paper will be a useful contribution to the taxonomic and ecological knowledge of this group of mites.

Material and methods

Zerconid mites were collected by the department of Zoology and Ecology (University of Navarra) during soil ecological studies in habitats (natural forests, reforested forest, felled forest) from different climatic regions of Navarra from 1982, and by D. Miguel Ángel