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A new species of *Weiseronyssus* Samsinak 1962 (Acari: Mesostigmata: Diplogyniidae) from Iran, with a key for genera

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Abstract

A new species of *Weiseronyssus* (Mesostigmata: Diplogyniidae) is described from adult females and males taken from *Oryctes nasicornis* (L.) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) in northern Iran. The genus was previously known from a single species associated with an undetermined dynastine scarab from southern China. The generic diagnosis is updated and a key to the genera of Diplogyniidae is presented.

Key words: Acari, Mesostigmata, Diplogyniidae, *Weiseronyssus*, *Oryctes nasicornis*, Iran

Introduction

Adults of the mesostigmatid mite family Diplogyniidae are usually found on host specimens, most commonly beetles of the superfamily Scarabaeoidea (e.g., Passalidae, Scarabaeidae) (Elsen 1975, 1981; Hunter 1993; Trägårdh 1950; Womersley 1958). However, their overall host range is in fact quite extensive, including Curculionidae (Hicks 1958), Tenebrionidae (Elsen 1981; Samsinak 1957), Histeridae (Banks 1905; Hicks 1957; Ishikawa 1968; Masán & Kaluz 1998), Hymenoptera (Elsen 1975; Hunter 1993), Isoptera (Krantz 1958), Blattodea (Womersley 1958), Dermaptera (Seeman 2007), Myriapoda (Canestrini 1888; Womersley 1958) and even Squamata (Johnston & Fain 1964). Off-host records of adults (Bhattacharyya 1969; Datta 1984; Elsen 1974; Trägårdh 1950) include sites under tree bark or in manure, all sites assumed to be high in organic matter. Only adults of these mites have been found on their hosts and immature stages are presumably free living predators in their host's habitat.

We provide the first record of Diplogyniidae from Iran. The combination of holotrichy / hypotrichy of the dorsal shield, a large rounded ventrianal shield, absence of ventrimarginal shields, and fused metasternal shields, assign this species to *Weiseronyssus* Samsinak 1962, a genus previously known only from a single species from Southern China. Adult males and females of a new species were removed from *Oryctes nasicornis* (L.) (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) collected in two different areas with similar climatic characteristics in northern Iran near the Caspian Sea. Several species of *Oryctes* Illiger have been recorded from Iran; *O. nasicornis* is a big (23-42 mm long) oaken reddish beetle with large horned males and short horned females. It has been reported from central and northern Iran, near the Caspian Sea to north-eastern Iran (Behdad 1996). The beetle's larvae feed on stems and roots of some Rosaceae and sometimes grape but the species is not consid-

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