A new species of *Linotetranus* (Acari : Prostigmata: Linotetranidae) from Iran

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Mites of the family Linotetranidae (Acari: Prostigmata) are unique among the tetranychoid families in that eyes are absent (Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997). They are usually colourless, slender and less than a third of a millimeter in length, and occur mostly in soil. Linotetrandis have been reported from moss, soil and rotting trees, but most collection indicate an association with the crown and roots of grass or sedge in dryland habitats (Beard & Walter, 2004). Up to now eight species of the genus *Linotetranus* have been described in the world. In this paper we describe and illustrate a new species. The terminology and abbreviations follow Lindquist (1985) and all measurements are given in micrometers.

Key to the species of *Linotetranus* Berlese, 1910 (Females)

1 Setae e₄ on caudal area absent .............................................................. *L. achrous* Baker & Pritchard, 1953
- Setae e₄ on caudal area present ............................................................... 2
2 With 2 pairs of genital setae ................................................................. *L. ramosus* Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997
- With 3 pairs of genital setae ................................................................................................................................. 3
3 Dorsal caudal area with transverse striae .................................................. *L. protractulus* Athias-Henriot, 1961
- Dorsal caudal area smooth or with irregular striae ........................................ 4
4 Palptibia with 1 seta ................................................................................ 5
- Palptibia with 2 setae ............................................................................... 6
5 Palpgenu with 1 seta .................................................................................. *L. cylindricus* Berlese, 1910
- Palpgenu with 2 setae ............................................................................. *L. amicus* Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997
6 Genu I with 4 setae .................................................................................. *L. edenvillensis* Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997
- Genu I with 5 setae ................................................................................ 7
7 Dorsal setae d₄ shorter than distance between d₃ and e₃ ......................... *L. mirabebensis* Andre
- Dorsal setae d₄ longer than distance between d₃ and e₃ ............................... 8
8 Palpgenu without setae; dorsal setae h₅ < twice length of seta h₁ .............. *L. annae* Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997
- Palpgenu with 1 seta; dorsal setae h₅ > twice the length of seta h₁ ........... *L. niknami* Bagheri & Haddad, sp. nov.

Family Linotetranidae Baker and Pritchard, 1953

Type genus: *Linotetranus* Berlese,1910

Genus *Linotetranus* Berlese, 1910

Type species: *Linotetranus cylindricus* Berlese, 1910