A new species of *Chirocephalus* (Crustacea: Anostraca) from Iran

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Abstract

*Chirocephalus soulukiensis*, an insular new species of fairy shrimp, is described from the Soulukli Wetland in Golestan National Park in northeastern Iran. The new species shares several characters with the loosely organized “*Pristicephalus*” group. It is readily separated from all congeners by the short, monolamellar form of the antennal appendage, which is unarmed, the distally expanded form of the apophyses, and the sinuate form of the second antennal distal antennomere.

Key words: Fairy Shrimp, Chirocephalidae, Iran, Golestan National Park

Introduction


We present a new, insular, endemic species of *Chirocephalus* and report the first record of *Chirocephalus neumanni* Hartland-Rowe, 1967 from Iran. This species is previously reported from Israel (Hartland-Rowe 1967b, Dimentmann 1981) and is a significant range extension for this species. These two new records raise the total number of anostracan species reported from Iran to eight (Mura and Takami 2000). We are confident that further exploration will yield more new species and more new species records across western Asia.