A review of *Amblypalpus* and *Priscapalpus* (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae), including two new species of *Amblypalpus* from Iran

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Abstract

Two new species of *Amblypalpus* (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae) are described from Iran: *Amblypalpus iranensis* sp. nov., from Wild Almond, *Amygdalus scoparia* (Rosaceae), and *Amblypalpus thymus* sp. nov., from Common Thyme, *Thymus vulgaris* (Lamiaceae). The new species are classified tentatively in *Amblypalpus*. The species *Priscapalpus thomissus* Meyer, 1979 is transferred to *Amblypalpus* and the genus concept of *Priscapalpus* is narrowed and therefore redefined. Similarly, we present an expanded concept of *Amblypalpus*. A key to brevipalpine genera and *Amblypalpus* species is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, redefinition, new species, keys, Kerman

Introduction

*Amblypalpus* is a small genus of Tenuipalpidae erected by Mitrofanov & Strunkova (1978) for the type species *Amblypalpus narsikulovi* Mitrofanov & Strunkova and *Ultratenuipalpus aberrans* (Collyer), originally placed in *Tenuipalpus* (Collyer 1973). The genus was first thought distinct from *Tenuipalpus* because of their reduced opisthosomal setation of five lateral setae, i.e., *c3, d3, e3, h2, h1*, with setae *f3* absent. The generic status of *Amblypalpus* was not accepted by Sepasgosarian (1983), whose treatment was influenced through correspondence with Meyer (see p. 171–2 of Sepasgosarian (1983)). Ghai & Shenhmar (1984) also listed *Amblypalpus* as a synonym of *Tenuipalpus*, independently of Sepasgosarian (1983) but likely also influenced by the opinion of Meyer.

Meyer’s (1993) significant work on Afrotropical *Tenuipalpus* split the genus into two groups: the *caudatus* group, with seven lateral opisthosomal setae, and the *proteae* group, with six lateral setae. Clearly *A. narsikulovi* and *U. aberrans*, with five lateral setae, belonged in neither group. Ehara & Ueckermann (2003) created the *T. aberrans* species group, a distinct species group for the above two species, in addition to their new species, *Amblypalpus masakii* (Ehara and Ueckermann), originally described in *Tenuipalpus*. This species grouping, within *Tenuipalpus*, was based primarily on dorsal chaetotaxy with little consideration for other characters, of which the three member species shared nothing of significance.

In their diagnosis of *Tenuipalpus*, Baker and Tuttle (1987) placed significance on the shape of dorsal setae *h2* (flagellate) for the genus. Mesa et al. (2009) also placed significance on this character for *Tenuipalpus*, redefined the genus, recognised *Amblypalpus* and provided a much broader definition of *Ultratenuipalpus*. *Tenuipalpus masakii* and *T. narsikulovi* became the only two members of *Amblypalpus*, while *T. aberrans* was shifted to