

## **Psammophilous halacarid mites from Kuwait: Description of species of the genera *Actacarus* and *Scaptognathides* (Acari: Halacaridae)**

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### **Abstract**

Two new species, *Actacarus arabius* and *Scaptognathides delicatulus*, are described. The species are from the shores of southern Kuwait. *A. arabius* belongs to a species group with the character combination of (1) tibiae III and IV with two short, almost paired ventral setae and (2) tarsi III and IV with four and three dorsal setae, respectively. *S. delicatulus* is characterized by its delicately pitted dorsal plates and the OC bearing two gland pores.

**Key words:** Acari, Halacaridae, *Actacarus*, *Scaptognathides*, new species, description

### **Introduction**

The genera *Actacarus* and *Scaptognathides* include rather small-sized, exclusively arenicolous halacarid mites. Species of *Actacarus* are within a length range of 140 to 360 µm, *Scaptognathides* within a range of 130 to 220 µm. Most of the *Actacarus* species described to date live in tropical and warm temperate waters, though there also are records from polar waters, e.g., from the sub-Antarctic Kerguelen Islands (Bové *et al.* 1973). Records of *Scaptognathides* are from warm temperate and tropical waters. The two new species, one *Actacarus* and one *Scaptognathides* species, are from the Arabian Peninsula, from the inner part of the Persian Gulf.

### **Material and methods**

The mites were cleared in lactic acid and mounted between cover-slips; the mounting medium is glycerine jelly. The mounted holotypes and paratypes, as well as unmounted