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False spider mites of the genus *Pentamerismus* McGregor (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from Iran

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Abstract

One known species of the false spider mite genus *Pentamerismus*, *P. judicious* De Leon is redescribed. Two new species, *P. ueckermanni* **sp. nov.** and *P. behsharicus* **sp. nov.** are described and figured based on females collected from *Juniperus polycarpus* L. leaves, Mazandaran province, Iran. A key to all known species of this genus is given.

Key words: Acari, Tenuipalpidae, *Pentamerismus*, false spider mite, Iran

Introduction

The genus *Pentamerismus*, was established by McGregor in 1949, based on the type species *P. erythraeus* Ewing. To date, 18 species are known from the world. Baker and Tuttle (1987) divided it into two species groups, namely, *P.erythraeus* and *P. oregonensis* groups, on the basis of the number of sub lateral setae; there are 8 pairs of dorsolateral setae in the former group and 7 pairs in the latter. Meyer & Van Dis (1993) emphasized this grouping. Four species of the genus have so far been recorded in Iran: namely, *P.canadensis* McGregor (Sepasgozarian, 1976); *P. oregonensis* McGregor, *P. foiisetis* Livshitz & Mitrofanov, and *P. judiciarus* De Leon, from *Juniperus polycarpus* Koch (Barimani Varandi, 1995). In this paper, two new species from *Juniperus communis* L., Behshahr, north of Iran are described.

Material and methods

Leaves infested with false spider mites were collected in north of Iran and taken to laboratory for processing. In the laboratory the mites were collected from the plants under a stero-microscope, with a No. 0 paint brush and mounted in Hoyer's medium. The mites were examined using an interference contrast microspore.

Body length measurements represent the distance between base of gnathosoma and end of idiosoma; width was measured at the broadest point of idiosoma, behind leg III; setae are measured from their insertions to their tips; distances between setae are the distances between their insertions. In the remarks following descriptions of new species, they are compared with the original descriptions of closely related species.

All drawings were prepared with a camera Lucida.

The terminology and abbreviation used in the descriptions of the new species follows that of Lindquist (1985). All measurements are given in micrometers (μm).

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