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A new genus and species of Trombidiidae (Acari: Trombidioidea) described from larvae ectoparasitic on *Cicadatra ochreata* Melichar (Homoptera: Cicadidae) from Iran

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Abstract

A new genus and species of Trombidiidae with larvae which are ectoparasitic on *Cicadatra ochreata* Melichar (Homoptera: Cicadidae) is described from Astaneh city, Markazi province, Iran. *Cicaditrombium weni* **gen. et sp. nov.** is provisionally placed in the subfamily Trombidiinae.

Key words: Acari, Trombidiidae, *Cicaditrombium weni* gen. et sp. nov., ectoparasite, larva, *Cicadatra ochreata*, Iran

Introduction

Mites of the family Trombidiidae are parasites in their larval stage and predators in their post-larval stages on a variety of arthropods, among which are important pest species (Robaux 1974; Welbourn 1983).

Previous works on the phylogeny of Trombidiidae include Welbourn (1984, 1991), Witte (1984, 1991) and Zhang (1995), who analyzed the intergeneric relationships based on morphological data (Welbourn, Zhang) as well as on anatomy and biology (Witte). Makol (2007) comprehensively revised the family and recognised 22 genera of which 12 genera are based on larval form or both larval and post-larval forms.

Seven genera of the family Trombidiidae (larval form or larval and both post-larval forms) are hitherto known from Iran: *Trombidium* Fabricius, 1775, *Allothrombium* Berlese, 1903, *Paratrombium* Bruyant, 1910, *Monotrombium* Zhang, 1995, *Iranitrombium* Saboori & Hajiqanbar, 2003, *Azaritrombium* Saboori *et al.*, 2005, and *Oskootrombium* Saboori *et al.*, 2006 (Saboori *et al.* 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007; Zhang & Norbakhsh 1995; Zhang & Rastegari 1996; Zhang & Saboori 1996). In this paper we describe an unusual new species from Astaneh city, Markazi province, Iran, that requires a new genus to accommodate it.

Materials and methods

Specimens were preserved in 75% ethanol and cleared in lactophenol solution and mounted using Hoyer's medium. Figures were drawn using a BX-51 Olympus microscope equipped with a drawing tube and magnification changer. Measurements were calculated using a Wild microscope. The following terms and abbreviations are used (based on Robaux (1974), Makol (2007)) and measurements are given in micrometers (μm).

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