



A new species of *Linotetranus* (Acari : Prostigmata: Linotetranaidae) from Iran

MOHAMMAD BAGHERI¹, KARIM HADDAD IRANI-NEJAD², KARIM KAMALI³,
MOHAMMAD KHANJANI⁴, ALIREZA SABOORI⁵ & PARISA LOTFOLLAHI²

¹Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maragheh, Maragheh, Iran.
E-mail: mbagheri20022002@yahoo.com

²Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tabriz, Tabriz, Iran.
E-mail: khaddad@tabrizu.ac.ir; prslotfollahy@yahoo.com

³Department of Agricultural Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran

⁴Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Bu-Ali Sina, Hamadan, Iran. E-mail: Khanjani@basu.ac.ir

⁵Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tehran, Karaj, Iran. E-mail: saboori@ut.ac.ir

Mites of the family Linotetranaidae (Acari: Prostigmata) are unique among the tetranychoid families in that eyes are absent (Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997). They are usually colourless, slender and less than a third of a millimeter in length, and occur mostly in soil. Linotetranaids have been reported from moss, soil and rotting trees, but most collection indicate an association with the crown and roots of grass or sedge in dryland habitats (Beard & Walter, 2004). Up to now eight species of the genus *Linotetranus* have been described in the world. In this paper we describe and illustrate a new species. The terminology and abbreviations follow Lindquist (1985) and all measurements are given in micrometers.

Key to the species of *Linotetranus* Berlese, 1910 (Females)

- | | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Setae e_4 on caudal area absent | <i>L. achrous</i> Baker & Pritchard, 1953 |
| - | Setae e_4 on caudal area present | 2 |
| 2 | With 2 pairs of genital setae | <i>L. ramosus</i> Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997 |
| - | With 3 pairs of genital setae | 3 |
| 3 | Dorsal caudal area with transverse striae | <i>L. protractulus</i> Athias-Henriot, 1961 |
| - | Dorsal caudal area smooth or with irregular striae | 4 |
| 4 | Palptibia with 1 seta | 5 |
| - | Palptibia with 2 setae | 6 |
| 5 | Palpgenu with 1 seta | <i>L. cylindricus</i> Berlese, 1910 |
| - | Palpgenu with 2 setae | <i>L. amicus</i> Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997 |
| 6 | Genu I with 4 setae | <i>L. edenvillensis</i> Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997 |
| - | Genu I with 5 setae | 7 |
| 7 | Dorsal setae d_3 shorter than distance between d_3 and e_3 | <i>L. mirabebensis</i> Andre |
| - | Dorsal setae d_3 longer than distance between d_3 and e_3 | 8 |
| 8 | Palpgenu without setae; dorsal setae $h_2 <$ twice length of seta h_1 | <i>L. annae</i> Meyer & Ueckermann, 1997 |
| - | Palpgenu with 1 seta; dorsal setae $h_2 >$ twice the length of seta h_1 | <i>L. nikhani</i> Bagheri & Haddad, sp. nov. |

Family Linotetranaidae Baker and Pritchard, 1953

Type genus: *Linotetranus* Berlese, 1910

Genus *Linotetranus* Berlese, 1910

Type species: *Linotetranus cylindricus* Berlese, 1910