



Two new species of the genus *Neophyllobius* Berlese (Acari: Camerobiidae) from Iran

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Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Neophyllobius* Berlese, 1886 viz. *Neophyllobius zolfigolii* sp. nov. collected from soil under a wild rose bush and *Neophyllobius kamalii* sp. nov. collected from pomegranate leaves infested by *Cenopalpus irani* Dosse (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) are described and illustrated from Iran. A key to the Iranian species is provided.

Key words: Acari, Camerobiidae, *Neophyllobius*, predatory mite, Iran

Introduction

The stilt-legged mites, Camerobiidae, are mostly active ground predators where they feed on small phytophagous arthropods such as false spider mites, eriophyid mites and first nymphal instars of unarmored scale insects (Meyer 1962; Richards 1962; McDaniel 1979; Bolland 1986, 1991; Gerson & Smiley 1990; Gerson *et al.* 1990, 2003; Bolland & Mehrnejad 2001; Khanjani & Ueckermann 2002, 2006; Akyol & Koç 2006). Five species are described from Iran until now: *N. persiaensis* Khanjani & Ueckermann from litter under *Sophora pachycarpa* Schrenk (Fabaceae), *N. cameli* Khanjani & Ueckermann from litter under tea bushes, *N. astragalusi* Khanjani & Ueckermann from soil under *Astragalus* sp. bushes, *N. pistachiae* Bolland & Mehrnejad from pistachio trees infested by tenuipalpid and eriophyid mites, and *N. asalii* Khanjani & Ueckermann, 2007 from grass litter. The sixth and seventh species are described and illustrated in this paper.

Material and Methods

Mites were removed from samples under a stereomicroscope and directly mounted in Hoyer's solution. Setal nomenclature follows Kethley (1990) and Khanjani & Ueckermann (2006). All measurements are given in micrometers.

Genus *Neophyllobius* Berlese

Type species: *Neophyllobius elegans* Berlese, 1886: 19.

Diagnosis. The members of this genus can easily be recognized by following combinations of characters: Legs stilt-like, longer than idiosoma; genu less than one-fourth the length of the tibia; trochanters visible from the dorsal view. Idiosoma ovoid with seven pairs of dorsocentral setae (*vi*, *pdx*, *c*₁, *d*₁, *e*₁, *f*₁ and *h*₁) and eight pairs of dorsolateral setae (*ve*, *sci*, *sce*, *c*₂, *d*₂, *e*₂, *f*₂ and *h*₂). Dorsal setae long, stout, serrated and often set on tubercles. Chelicerae fused and palp five-segmented. Two pairs of eyes present. Genual setae usually very long and whip-like. Setal formula of tibiae: 9-9 or 8-8-7. Each tibia of female with a solenidion but tibia I of male with two solenidia (φ); tarsi III and IV of female without solenidia. All tarsi decorated with two claws and empodium with tenent hairs.