



Six new species of *Prozercon* Sellnick, 1943 (Acari, Mesostigmata, Zerconidae) from Greece, with remarks on the genus

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Abstract

The taxonomic history of the genus *Prozercon* Sellnick, 1943 is summarised. A diagnosis of the genus is given, with remarks on variability of certain characters. The genus *Rafas* Błazszak, 1979b, which was defined earlier on the basis of its divided sternal shield, is proposed as junior synonym of *Prozercon*, which results in the following new combinations: *P. bisternalis* (Błazszak, 1979b) **comb. nov.** and *P. blaszaki* (Urhan & Ayyildiz, 1996d) **comb. nov.** *Prozercon changbaiensis* Bei *et al.*, 2002 is transferred to *Mesozercon* Błazszak, 1976 as *Mesozercon changbaiensis* (Bei *et al.*, 2002) **comb. nov.**, on the basis of the presence of the adgenital gland openings and ventrianal setae ZV1. *Prozercon willmanni* Schweizer, 1948 was synonymised earlier with a former variety of *P. kochi* Sellnick, 1944, but is here regarded as a valid species since there are several important characters distinguishing the two species. *Prozercon masani* Moraza, 2006 is proposed as junior synonym of *P. cambriensis* Skorupski & Luxton, 1996 since no convincing differences exist between the two species. Six new species, *P. achaeanus* **sp. nov.**, *P. bulbiferus* **sp. nov.**, *P. dramaensis* **sp. nov.**, *P. graecus* **sp. nov.**, *P. morazae* **sp. nov.** and *P. norae* **sp. nov.**, are described from Greece, and *P. carpathofimbriatus* and *P. carsticus* are recorded for the first time from the country. Detailed descriptions of the female and the previously unknown deutonymph are of *P. yavuzi* Urhan, 1998a also presented, as the Greek specimens differ from the Turkish ones by important characters. A key to the known species of *Prozercon* is provided.

Key words: Zerconidae, *Prozercon*, new species, taxonomy, Greece