



Notes on the genus *Dolichothonbium* (Acari: Prostigmata: Trombidiidae) with description of a new species

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Abstract

A new species, *Dolichothonbium anatoliae* **sp. nov.**, is described based on active postlarval forms and larvae. Larvae of *Dolichothonbium* Feider, 1945 were obtained for the first time by experimental rearing from field-collected females. *Azaritrombium* Saboori, Bagheri et Haddad Irani-nejad, 2005, hitherto known exclusively from larvae, is regarded as a junior synonym of *Dolichothonbium*. Diagnoses of active postlarval forms and larvae are given and all species assigned to *Dolichothonbium* are listed. An identification key to active postlarval forms and larvae is provided.

Key words: acarology, Parasitengona, taxonomy, *Dolichothonbium*, postlarval forms, larvae

Introduction

The subgenus *Dolichothonbium* was established by Feider (1945) in order to accommodate *Trombidium* (*Dolichothonbium*) *borceai* Feider, 1945 and *Trombidium insidiosum* André, 1926. Feider (1955) raised the subgenus to the genus level. The taxonomic history of *Dolichothonbium* was discussed by Makol (2007). Altogether, nine species, all known exclusively from active postlarval forms, were hitherto assigned to the genus (André 1926, 1954; Feider 1945, 1978; Makol 2007; Robaux 1967; Schweizer 1951; Willmann 1950).

Saboori *et al.* (2005) described the genus *Azaritrombium* Saboori, Bagheri et Haddad Irani-nejad, 2005, based on larvae collected in Iran. Another species known from larvae, *Trombidium telletxae* Goldarazena, Zhang et Jordana, 2000, was transferred to *Azaritrombium* by Makol (2007).

The aim of the present paper is to present the results of experimental rearing, during which the larvae of *Azaritrombium* *syn. nov.* were obtained from eggs laid by a field-collected female of *Dolichothonbium*. *Dolichothonbium anatoliae* **sp. nov.**, known from larvae and active postlarval forms, is described from Turkey.

The distribution of *Dolichothonbium* (= *Azaritrombium*) indicates that the genus comprises Mediterranean and Pontic species.

Material and methods

Five specimens—active postlarval forms—were collected directly from the soil surface, on a humid meadow with copses, close to a stream, in Caglayan village near Erzincan, Turkey (N39°35'11.57", E39°41'51.03", 1266 m a.s.l., 29.10.2010, leg. S. Sevsay). Larvae were obtained by experimental rearing from a field-collected female. The material was preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol. Specimens for light microscope studies (1 female, 1 male, 2 postlarval specimens (deutonymphs or females, see the Discussion), 15 larvae) were fixed on slides in Swan's fluid (Swan 1936). Representatives of active postlarval forms were macerated in Nesbitt's fluid (Walter & Krantz 2009) prior to fixation. Measurements were taken and drawings made under a Nikon Eclipse E600 microscope with differential