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Three new false spider mites of the genus *Pseudoleptus* Bruyant (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from Iran

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Abstract

Three new species of *Pseudoleptus* are described from Iran: *P. hamedaniensis* **sp. nov.** from *Bromus tectorum* (Poaceae), *P. iranensis* **sp. nov.** from *Bromus danthoniae* (Poaceae), and *P. kermanshahiensis* **sp. nov.** from *Alopecurus myosuroides* (Poaceae). The genus *Pseudoleptus* is rediagnosed and its relationship with the *Aegyptobia macswaini* species group discussed. A key to all known species of this genus is given.

Key words: Tetranychoidea, taxonomy, identification, new species, key.

Introduction

Pseudoleptus Bruyant, 1911 is one of the oldest-named genera of the Tenuipalpidae, with *Phytoptipalpus* Trägårdh, 1904, *Tenuipalpus* Donnadieu, 1875, and *Brevipalpus* Donnadieu, 1875 predating it. Today, *Brevipalpus* and *Tenuipalpus* comprise about 300 species each, far more than the relatively unknown *Pseudoleptus* with just ten described species (Mesa *et al.* 2009; Table 1), the last being *Pseudoleptus graminosus* Meyer, 1979. All ten species occur on grasses; species in the genus have been recorded from Africa, Europe, North and South America, and the Middle East (Table 1). Although grasses include a multitude of species of great importance to humans and their livestock, no species of *Pseudoleptus* are recorded as pest species. Here, we describe three new species of *Pseudoleptus* from Iran, all collected from grasses.

Material and methods

Alopecurus myosuroides Hudson and *Bromus* spp. infested with false spider mites were collected in the western parts of Iran and taken to the laboratory for processing. Mites were removed from plant leaves with a No. 0 paint brush under a Wild M8 stereomicroscope and mounted directly in Hoyer's medium. The mites were examined using a differential interference contrast microscope. All drawings were prepared with a camera lucida.

Body length measurements represent the distance between the tip of the gnathosoma and end of the idiosoma; width was measured at the broadest point of the idiosoma, behind leg III; setae are measured from their insertions to their tips; distances between setae are the distances between their insertions. The terminology and abbreviations used in of the descriptions of the new species follows those of Lindquist (1985) and Mesa *et al*. (2009). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm). Leg chaetotaxy follows Lindquist (1985); seta *l''* is in the position of *v''*, but is named *l''* as per the reasoning in Seeman and Beard (2011).

Specimen depositories are cited using the following abbreviations:

CALBS—Collection of the Acarology Laboratory, University of Bu-Ali Sina, Hamadan, Iran.

QMA—Queensland Museum, South Brisbane, Australia.

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