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## A new species of *Chirocephalus* (Crustacea: Anostraca) from Iran

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### Abstract

*Chirocephalus soulukliensis*, an insular new species of fairy shrimp, is described from the Soulukli Wetland in Golestan National Park in northeastern Iran. The new species shares several characters with the loosely organized “*Pristicephalus*” group. It is readily separated from all congeners by the short, monolamellar form of the antennal appendage, which is unarmed, the distally expanded form of the apophyses, and the sinuate form of the second antennal distal antennomere.

**Key words:** Fairy Shrimp, Chirocephalidae, Iran, Golestan National Park

### چکیده

یک گونه جدید جدا افتاده، از میگوی آب شیرین که از تالاب سولوکلی در پارک ملی گلستان توصیف می شود. این گونه جدید چندین ویژگی را با گروه پریستیسیفالوس نه چندان سازمان یافته سهیم شده است. آن به سهولت از همه همجنسهای خود بوسیله ضمیمه شاخک تک لایه‌ای شکل، که آن غیر مسلح به شکل دورین گسترده از زانده ها، و موجی شکل از دورین شاخک دوم (بخشی از شاخک) جدا شده است.

### Introduction

The anostracan fauna of Iran and adjacent nations are poorly known (Belk and Brtek 1995, 1997), and new species are still being discovered (Brtek and Cottarelli 2006, Cottarelli *et al.* 2007, Cottarelli *et al.* 2010). Six species (two of which are halophiles) have been reported to date (Hartland-Rowe 1967a, Thiéry 1996, Agh *et al.* 2007, Mura and Takami 2000, Mura *et al.* 2005, Bazevanis *et al.* 2006, Abatzopoulos *et al.* 2009, Eid 2009, Anonymous 2010, Jamali *et al.* 2010, Manaffar *et al.* 2011, Mura *et al.* 2011). Most records of Iranian Anostraca come from the western part of the nation (Mura and Takami 2000, Anonymous 2010) The oldest written record of an Iranian anostracan, of any anostracan, comes from a Persian (Iranian) Encyclopaedia, written in the year 982, by an anonymous author (Asem 2008) referring to *Artemia urmiana* Günther 1899 as “worms”. The current understanding of the Iranian anostracan fauna was summarized by Mura and Takami (2000).

We present a new, insular, endemic species of *Chirocephalus* and report the first record of *Chirocephalus neumanni* Hartland-Rowe, 1967 from Iran. This species is previously reported from Israel (Hartland-Rowe 1967b, Dimentmann 1981) and is a significant range extension for this species. These two new records raise the total number of anostracan species reported from Iran to eight (Mura and Takami 2000). We are confident that further exploration will yield more new species and more new species records across western Asia.