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Austroteneriffia shiraziensis sp. nov. (Acari: Teneriffiidae) from southwestern Iran, with description of male and immature stages

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Abstract

A new species, *Austroteneriffia shiraziensis* **sp. nov.,** is described and illustrated from soil under oak trees in the Koohmare Sorkhi region, Fars province, south western Iran. The description of *A. shiraziensis* **sp. nov.** is based on females, males, deutonymphs, and protonymphs. A key to adult females of *Austroteneriffia* is provided.

Key words: Acari, Teneriffiidae, *Austroteneriffia*, predatory mite, Fars province, Iran

Introduction

The family Teneriffiidae, proposed by Thor (1911), is one of three families within the superfamily Anystoidea. These long–legged predatory mites are red, yellow, or brownish in life (Walter *et al.*, 2009). Unlike other anystoid mites, the naso of the Teneriffiidae is weakly expressed and nude, whereas it is distinct in the Anystidae and indistinct or absent in the Pseudocheylidae. All members of Teneriffiidae also have two pairs of eyes, two pairs of filiform bothridial setae on the prodorsum, a rosette pattern at the posterior bothridial base, and tarsal claws I–II broadly bipectinate. This family currently contains eight genera: *Teneriffia* Thor, 1911; *Parateneriffia* Thor, 1911; *Neoteneriffiola* Hirst, 1924; *Heteroteneriffia* Hirst, 1925; *Mesoteneriffiola* Irk, 1939, *Austroteneriffia* Womersley, 1935; *Sinoteneriffia* Yin *et al*., 1994 and *Himalteneriffia* Schmölzer, 2002. Members of *Austroteneriffia* are free living in soil, sand, under rocks, leaf litter, and on ground pearls, *Porphyrophora tritici* (Bodenheimer) (Margarodidae) (Sayer *et al.*, 1992; Judson, 1995; Ueckermann & Khanjani, 2002; Khanjani *et al.*, 2011). Currently the genus *Austroteneriffia* contains eight species, namely *A. hirsti* Womersley, 1935; *A. japonica* (Ehara, 1965); *A. hojoensis* (Shiba & Furukawa, 1975)*; A. tadjikistanica* Wainstein, 1969; *A. littorina* Shiba & Furukawa, 1975; *A. leei* Judson, 1994; *A. kamalii* Ueckermann & Khanjani, 2002; *A. zamaniani* Khanjani *et al*., 2011 and in this paper the ninth species is described and illustrated as *Austroteneriffia shiraziensis* **sp. nov**.

Material and methods

Mites were collected from soil under oak trees in the Koohmare Sorkhi region, Fars province. The mites were mounted on slides in Hoyer's medium (Walter & Krantz, 2009). The slides were dried in an oven at about 50°C, ringed with nail polish and examined under a phase contrast microscope (Olympus BX 51) equipped with a drawing tube. The notation of the idiosomal setae follows that of Kethley (1990) and the notation of the cupules and female and male genitalia notation follows that of Judson (1995). Setae were measured from the setal base to the tip of the seta; distances between setae were measured between setal bases. All measurements are given in micrometers (μm) and the holotype measurements (female) are followed by the range of the paratypes in parentheses and also the measurements of the male and deutonymph are followed by their range. The total length of legs I–IV (from coxa to base of tarsal claw) is presented by the abbreviation IP.

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