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A new species of the genus *Achaemenothrombium* (Acari: Achaemenothrombiidae) from Iran

ALIREZA SABOORI¹, ANDREAS WOHLTMANN², MASOUD HAKIMITABAR³ & ASGHAR SHIRVANI⁴

¹Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Tehran, Karaj, Iran. E-mail: saboori@ut.ac.ir

²Findorffstr. 11, D-27721 Ritterhude, Germany. E-mail: wohlman@uni-bremen.de

³Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, University of Shahrood, Shahrood, Iran.
E-mail: hakimitabar@yahoo.com

⁴Department of Plant Protection, College of Agriculture, Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, Kerman, Iran.
E-mail: shirvani@uk.ac.ir

Abstract

Achaemenothrombium dariusi Saboori, Wohltmann & Hakimitabar **sp. nov.** (Acari, Prostigmata: Trombidioidea) is described and illustrated from larvae ectoparasitic on *Euxoa fallax* (Eversmann) (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) from Sirch and Cheshmeh Bondar, Kerman province, Iran. It is the third species of this genus, which is recorded only from Iran. The status of this small family is discussed and a key to species of *Achaemenothrombium* (larvae) is presented.

Key words: Parasitengona, *Euxoa fallax*, Noctuidae, larva, ectoparasite, key

Introduction

Recent research on the Iranian fauna of terrestrial Parasitengona has shown a rich fauna of these conspicuous and diverse mites. The family Achaemenothrombiidae was established by Saboori *et al.* (2010), included two larval species, *Achaemenothrombium cyrusi* Saboori, Wohltmann & Hakimitabar, 2010 and *A. talebii* (Karimi Iravanlou & Kamali, 2001), and was placed in the superfamily Trombidioidea. The presence of a scutellum, the absence of a solenidion on tibia III and the fusion of telo- and basifemora of legs I–III indicated a close relationship of the Achaemenothrombiidae to the four families of Trombidioidea, i.e. Trombidiidae, Podothrombiidae, Neothrombiidae and Microtrombidiidae (incl. Eutrombidiinae) (Saboori *et al.* 2010). The discovery of a third species, described herein, has confirmed the separate family status and a modified diagnosis of the family is presented.

Material and methods

Achaemenothrombium dariusi **sp. nov.** specimens were removed from the wings and abdomen of hosts and preserved in 70% ethanol, subsequently cleared in Nesbitt's fluid, and finally mounted in Faure's medium. Drawings and measurements were made using a microscope equipped with differential interference phase-contrast and a camera lucida. Terminology and abbreviations are adapted from Zhang & Fan (2007), Wohltmann *et al.* (2007) and Mağol (2007). Measurements are given in micrometers (µm).

Taxonomy

Achaemenothrombiidae Saboori *et al.*, 2010

Type species: *Achaemenothrombium cyrusi* Saboori *et al.*, 2010