Zootaxa 3716 (1): 053–064
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3716.1.4
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:B6981134-A13F-4454-8093-4F0A38791E4B

A review of *Amblypalpus* and *Priscapalpus* (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae), including two new species of *Amblypalpus* from Iran

SADEGH FARZAN[1, 6], MAHDIEH ASADI[1], EDWARD A. UECKERMANN[2, 3], OWEN D. SEEMAN[4] & JENNIFER J. BEARD[4, 5]

[1]*Department of Plant Protection, college of agriculture, Shahid Bahonar University of Kerman, Kerman, Iran. E-mail: Farzan.sadegh@gmail.com, asadi.mahd@yahoo.com*
[2]*ARC-Plant Protection Research Institute, Private Bag X134, Queenswood, Pretoria, 0121 South Africa. E-mail: UeckermannE@arc.agric.za*
[3]*School of Environmental Sciences and Development, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus 2520, South Africa*
[4]*Queensland Museum, PO Box 3300, South Brisbane, 4101, Australia*
[5]*Department of Entomology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland, 20742, USA*
[6]*Corresponding author*

Abstract

Two new species of *Amblypalpus* (Acari: Trombidiformes: Tenuipalpidae) are described from Iran: *Amblypalpus iraniensis* **sp. nov.**, from Wild Almond, *Amygdalus scoparia* (Rosaceae), and *Amblypalpus thymus* **sp. nov.**, from Common Thyme, *Thymus vulgaris* (Lamiaceae). The new species are classified tentatively in *Amblypalpus*. The species *Priscapalpus thomissus* Meyer, 1979 is transferred to *Amblypalpus* and the genus concept of *Priscapalpus* is narrowed and therefore redefined. Similarly, we present an expanded concept of *Amblypalpus*. A key to brevipalpine genera and *Amblypalpus* species is provided.

Key words: taxonomy, redefinition, new species, keys, Kerman

Introduction

Amblypalpus is a small genus of Tenuipalpidae erected by Mitrofanov & Strunkova (1978) for the type species *Amblypalpus narsikulovi* Mitrofanov & Strunkova and *Ultratenuipalpus aberrans* (Collyer), originally placed in *Tenuipalpus* (Collyer 1973). The genus was first thought distinct from *Tenuipalpus* because of their reduced opisthosomal setation of five lateral setae, i.e., *c3, d3, e3, h2, h1*, with setae *f3* absent. The generic status of *Amblypalpus* was not accepted by Sepasgosarian (1983), whose treatment was influenced through correspondence with Meyer (see p. 171–2 of Sepasgosarian (1983)). Ghai & Shenhmar (1984) also listed *Amblypalpus* as a synonym of *Tenuipalpus*, independently of Sepasgosarian (1983) but likely also influenced by the opinion of Meyer.

Meyer's (1993) significant work on Afrotropical *Tenuipalpus* split the genus into two groups: the *caudatus* group, with seven lateral opisthosomal setae, and the *proteae* group, with six lateral setae. Clearly *A. narsikulovi* and *U. aberrans*, with five lateral setae, belonged in neither group. Ehara & Ueckermann (2003) created the *T. aberrans* species group, a distinct species group for the above two species, in addition to their new species, *Amblypalpus masakii* (Ehara and Ueckermann), originally described in *Tenuipalpus*. This species grouping, within *Tenuipalpus*, was based primarily on dorsal chaetotaxy with little consideration for other characters, of which the three member species shared nothing of significance.

In their diagnosis of *Tenuipalpus*, Baker and Tuttle (1987) placed significance on the shape of dorsal setae *h2* (flagellate) for the genus. Mesa *et al.* (2009) also placed significance on this character for *Tenuipalpus*, redefined the genus, recognised *Amblypalpus* and provided a much broader definition of *Ultratenuipalpus*. *Tenuipalpus masakii* and *T. narsikulovi* became the only two members of *Amblypalpus*, while *T. aberrans* was shifted to

Accepted by A. Bochkov: 28 Aug. 2013; published: 20 Sept. 2013