

Some zerconid mites (Acari: Mesostigmata: Zerconidae) from Kosovo (Serbia-Montenegro) with description of *Zercon kosovina* sp. nov.

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Abstract

Three Zerconid mite species were collected in Kosovo (Serbia and Montenegro). Two of them, *Zercon moravicus* Halaškova, 1970 and *Prozercon fimbriatus* (C. L. Koch, 1839), are known species, but the third, *Zercon kosovina* sp. nov., proved to be new to science.

Key words: Acari, Zerconidae, new species, Kosovo

Introduction

Hungarian researchers began investigating the fauna and flora of the Balkan Peninsula in the first part of the 20th century (Teleki & Csiki, 1923, 1940), and Szalay (1940) published the first record of the mite fauna of this region. Following these publications, the noted acarologist János Balogh worked on the mite fauna of the Balkan region (Balogh, 1958, 1961). More recent expeditions from the Hungarian Natural History Museum have collected rich material from this region (Fehér *et al.*, 2004). Data on the Uropodina mites have been published (Kontschán, 2003a, 2003b, 2004, 2005), but other mite groups have not yet been investigated.

The Zerconidae fauna of the Balkan Peninsula is poorly known, and only a few papers have been published on this subject. Willmann (1941) published the first notes on the Zerconidae of the Balkans, and Balogh (1961) described a new species from Bulgaria. Koyumdjieva (1986) listed several species of Mesostigmata mites from the Danubian plain of Bulgaria, including six species of Zerconidae. Later, she recorded three species from several regions of Bulgaria (Koyumdjieva, 1993), and Błaszak & Polańska (1998) described two new species from the Rila Mountains.