

A new species of *Stigmaeus* Koch (Acari: Stigmaeidae) from Northwest of Iran

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Abstract

A new species of *Stigmaeus* Koch (Acari: Stigmaeidae), *S. malekii* Haddad, Bagheri & Khanjani, is described and illustrated from Northwestern (East Azarbaijan) Iran. The materials of new species were collected from apple litter. A key to the species of *Stigmaeus* found in Iran is given.

Key words: Acari, Stigmaeidae, *Stigmaeus*, new species, Iran

Introduction

Mites of the family Stigmaeidae (Acari: Prostigmata) are predators and feed on a variety of arthropods. These small red, yellow or orange mites occur in many habitats and form an important component of the acrofauna of soil, litter and plants. They are a large cosmopolitan group of genera which often characterized by particular combinations of dorsal shields (Summers, 1966). Up to now four species have been reported from Iran: *S. alavndis* Khanjani & Ueckermann, 2002, *S. unicus* Kuznezov, 1977, *S. elongates* Berlese, 1886 and *S. mazandaranicus* Faraji & Ueckermann, 2006. In this paper a new species is described and figured. The terminology and abbreviations are adopted from Kethley (1990). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm).