



## Three new water mite species (Acari: Hydrachnidia) from Golestan Province (NE Iran)

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### Abstract

Three new water mite species (Acari: Hydrachnidia) are described from rivers in the Golestan Province (NE Iran), *Atractides gorgani* **sp. nov.**, *A. hyrcaniensis* **sp. nov.** and *Axonopsis iranica* **sp. nov.**

**Key words:** Acari, new species, taxonomy, Iran, Golestan

### Introduction

The water mite fauna of Iran is still poorly known, and our knowledge of many areas remains scanty. Pesic & Saboori (2007) summarized the water mite fauna of Iran and listed 145 species, in 38 genera and 25 families. The present study is based on material collected in 2008 by the second author as part of his master thesis on biodiversity and ecology of water mites from the surface waters of Golestan Province (Fig. 1). Three water mite (Acari: Hydrachnidia) species new to science have been discovered. Descriptions of these species are given in this paper.

### Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted on the spot from the other living material, preserved in Koenike's fluid and dissected as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke *et al.* 2006). The holotype and some paratypes of the new species are deposited in the Museum of Natural History of Podgorica (Montenegro) (MNHP), and some other paratypes are deposited in the Jalal Afshar Zoological Museum, College of Agriculture, University of Tehran, Karaj (Iran). All material was collected by Isa Jabaleh.

The composition of the material is given as: (males/females/deutonymphs). All measurements are given in  $\mu\text{m}$ . For a detailed description and discussion of the characteristics of the genus *Atractides* and a detailed methodological introduction, see Gerecke (2003). The following abbreviations are used: Ac-1 = first acetabulum, Cx-1 = first coxae, Cxgl-2 = coxoglandulare 2, D = dorsale, Dc-1-4 = dorsocentralia 1-4, Dgl-1-7 = dorsoglandularia 1-7, L = dorsal length, %L = relative length, I-Leg-6 = Leg 1, sixth segment (tarsus), lL = lateral length, mL = medial length, P-1 = palp, first segment, postoc = postocular sclerite, pregen = pregenital sclerite, prefr = prefrontal sclerite, S-1 = large proximal ventral seta at I-Leg-5, S-2 = large distal ventral seta at I-Leg-5, Vgl = ventroglandulare, V = ventrale.