

Water mite species of the genus *Monatractides* K. Viets (Acari: Hydrachnidia, Torrenticolidae) from Iran, with the description of two new species

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Abstract

New information about the distribution of the species of the water mite genus *Monatractides* K. Viets (Acari: Hydrachnidia, Torrenticolidae) in Iran is presented. Two species (*Monatractides vafaei* and *M. persicus*) are described as new to science. A first Iranian record is given for *Monatractides algeriensis* Lundblad, 1941, a species previously known from Algeria and Southern Italy.

Keywords: Acari, Torrenticolidae, *Monatractides*, Iran, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

At present, only one species of the genus *Monatractides* K. Viets, *M. sepasi* (Bader 1988), is known from Iran. The aim of this paper is to contribute elements for an extended revision of the diversity, distribution and ecology of torrenticolid water mites in the Middle East area.

During a survey of the freshwater fauna of Iran, three species of the water mite genus *Monatractides* K. Viets were collected, including two species new to science and one species for the first time recorded in Middle East.

Material and methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorting on the spot from the living material, conserving in Koenike's fluid and dissecting as described elsewhere (e.g. Gerecke 1991).