

Water mites of the genus *Protzia* Piersig, 1896 (Acari, Hydrachnidia: Hydryphantidae) from Iran

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Abstract

Five water mite species of the genus *Protzia* Piersig, 1896 (Acari: Hydrachnidia, Hydryphantidae) are reported from Iran. Redescriptions are given for *P. alborziensis* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980, *P. zagrosiensis* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980, and *P. persica* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980. The first records from Iran are given for *P. rotunda* Walter, 1908 and *P. halberti* (Walter, 1920). The following synonyms are proposed: *P. cabardinica* (Sokolow, 1940) = *P. rotunda* Walter, 1908; *P. durmitoris* Pesic, 2003 = *P. halberti* (Walter, 1920).

Key words: Acari, *Protzia*, water mites, taxonomy, Iran

Introduction

Water mites of the genus *Protzia* have been found in all biogeographic regions except for Australia and Antarctica (Cook 1974). So far, only four species of the genus are known from Iran (Bader & Sepasgozarian 1980; Sepasgozarian 1999): *P. alborziensis* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980, *P. zagrosiensis* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980, *P. persica* Bader & Sepasgozarian, 1980, and *P. (Calonyx)* sp. Apart from field work done by the author and several colleagues, a large amount of new faunistic data comes from the Museum of Natural History at Basel (coll. Bader). The aim of this paper is to revise insufficiently described species (including the designation of lectotypes) and to give a survey of the diversity of the genus in the Persian region.

Material and Methods

Water mites were collected by hand netting, sorted on the spot from the living material,