

New records of the water mite genus *Arrenurus* from Iran, with the description of two new species from Iran and Cyprus (Acari, Hydrachnidia, Arrenuridae)

HARRY SMIT¹ & VLADIMIR PESIC²

¹Zoological Museum, University of Amsterdam, Plantage Middenlaan 64, 1018 DH Amsterdam, The Netherlands. E-mail: smit.h@wolmail.nl

²Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, University of Montenegro, Cetinjski put b.b., 81000 Podgorica, Montenegro, Serbia and Montenegro. E-mail: pesicv@cg.yu

Abstract

Two new species are described, viz. *Arrenurus minutus* spec. nov. from Iran and *A. cyprioticus* spec. nov. from Cyprus and Iran. In addition, 13 species new for the fauna of Iran are reported.

Key words: Water mites, *Arrenurus*, Iran, Cyprus, new species, new records

Introduction

The genus *Arrenurus* is the most species-rich genus of all water mites, and occurs on every continent except Antarctica. Most species are found in standing waters, a few are found in streams, springs or hyporheic habitats. To date, more than 900 species are known worldwide.

At present, only six species of the genus *Arrenurus* are known from Iran (Schwoerbel & Sepasgozarian 1977; Sepasgozarian 1999): *Arrenurus affinis* Koenike, *A. bicuspidator* Berlese, *A. compactus* Piersig, *A. crenatus* Koenike, *A. radiatus* Piersig and *A. octagonus* Halbert.

During a survey of the freshwater fauna of Iran, several species of the water mite genus *Arrenurus* were collected, including two species new to science and 13 previously described species new for the fauna of Iran are reported. The total number of arrenurid species of Iran is now 21. This is still a low number of species, given the vastness of the country and the number of arrenurids known from the Palaearctic. We expect, therefore, that future collections will yield many more species.