Zootaxa 3972 (4): 549–561
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3972.4.6
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:2743D0EF-AAE5-4B32-B2DA-83858EF7A258

Description of the first cave dwelling species of the spider genus *Trilacuna* Tong & Li from Iran (Araneae: Oonopidae)

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Abstract

A new species of the hard-bodied oonopid genus *Trilacuna* Tong & Li is described from a cave in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, southwestern Iran. *Trilacuna qarzi* **sp. nov.** is the first troglobiont species known of the genus, and is also the fifth oonopid species to be reported from Iran. Relationships of this new species are briefly discussed in the context of the limits of the genera belonging to the *Dysderoides* complex.

Key words: Goblin spiders, troglobiont, relict, new species, Iran

Introduction

Zagros is a mountain range that extends from Turkey and Iraq to Iran, where is oriented from the northwest to the south, and comprising nearly one fifth of the surface area of the latter country. This region harbors many caves, many of which were left unexplored until recently. However, despite the high number of caves known in this country, their fauna has not been completely investigated.

As previous data concerning the fauna of spiders (Araneae) in Iranian caves, we can mention Morandman & Jäger (2011) on the sparassid genus *Spariolenus* Simon, where the authors described four new species, and Marusik *et al.* (2014), who reported seven species for the Shirabad Cave (Golestan Province), two of them representing species new to science, along with three families reported for the first time for the country. Nevertheless, in the latter paper, none of those are highly specialized troglobiont species, all having normally developed eyes, and a distinct, not depigmented body pattern (Marusik *et al.* 2014: 265).

In the context of recent faunistic surveys conducted by the first author and collaborators to obtain biological data from caves located in the Zagros Mountains, specimens of an undescribed, eyeless, troglobiont oonopid spider species were found, that we aim to describe in this contribution.

Materials and methods

Our methods follow those of Platnick and Dupérré (2009). Female genitalia were observed inmersed in clove oil. Scanning electron micrographs (SEM) were taken under high vacuum with a FEI XL30 TMP after critical point drying and gold-palladium coating. Drawings were made with a camera lucida mounted on an Olympus BH-2 compound microscope. Photographs of the preserved specimens were taken with a Leica DFC 290 digital camera mounted on a Leica M165 C stereoscopic microscope, and the focal planes were composed with Helicon Focus 4.62.2. The description was generated automatically from the species descriptive database of the Planetary

Accepted by M. Arnedo: 13 May 2015; published: 15 Jun. 2015