

A false spider mite *Dolichotetranychus kermanicus* sp. nov. (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from southeast Iran

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Abstract

Dolichotetranychus kermanicus sp. nov. is described and illustrated based on female specimens collected from soil under a citrus tree, in the countryside surrounding Bam, Kerman Province in Iran. A key to all known species of the genus is provided.

Key words: false spider mite, Tenuipalpidae, *Dolichotetranychus*, citrus, Iran

Introduction

The genus *Dolichotetranychus* was erected by Sayed (1938), who designated *Stigmaeus floridanus* Banks as the type species. The genus comprises 24 species and is virtually worldwide in distribution. Host plants for *Dolichotetranychus* belong to the families Asteraceae, Arecaceae, Bromeliaceae, Poaceae, Scrophulariaceae and Zingiberaceae (Baker & Pritchard 1956; Baker & Tuttle 1972; Collyer 1973; Meyer 1979; Mohanasundaram 1983; Mallik & Paul 1995; Flechtmann & Fernando 2000; Ehara 2004). Mesa *et al.* (2009) listed 23 species of the genus *Dolichotetranychus* in the catalog of the Tenuipalpidae of the world, but did not include *Dolichotetranychus ramaniae* Mallik & Paul, 1995, described from India on coconut. The genus has not been previously from Iran. Therefore, the species described herein represents the first record of this genus in Iran.

Material and Methods

Mites were collected from soil under orange (*Citrus sinensis*) trees and taken to the laboratory for processing. Specimens were extracted from the soil by using a Berlese funnel, preserved in 70% alcohol and then mounted directly in Hoyer's medium on microscope slides. Mites were examined using an Olympus BX51 (NDIM) interference contrast microscope. Body length was measured from the base of the gnathosoma to end of the idiosoma. Body width was measured at the broadest point of the idiosoma. Setae were measured from the setal base to the tip of the seta; the distance between setae was measured at the point of insertion of each of the two setae.

The terminology and abbreviations used in the description of the new species follow that of Mesa *et al.* (2009). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm).

The holotype female and is deposited in the Collection of the Acarology Laboratory, University of Bu-Ali Sina, Hamedan, Iran and one female paratype will be deposited in the mite collection of the Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa.