

A new species of *Dendroseius* Karg from Iran (Acari: Rhodacaridae), with a key to the known species

FARID FARAJI¹, HAMID SAKENIN-CHELAV² & WOLFGANG KARG³

¹MITOX Consultants, P. O. Box 92260, 1090 AG Amsterdam, The Netherlands. E-mail: farid.faraji@mitox.org

²Department of Agronomy, Islamic Azad University of Ghaemshahr, Ghaemshahr, Iran.

E-mail: hchelave@yahoo.com

³Hohe Kiefer 152, D 14532 Kleinmachnow, Germany

Abstract

Dendroseius amoliensis n. sp. collected from soil in northern Iran is described and illustrated. A key is provided for the known species of *Dendroseius*.

Key words: Acari, *Dendroseius amoliensis*, Gamasina, Iran, key, new species

Introduction

Dendroseius was first recognized by Hirschmann as a distinct taxon (Lindquist, 1975) and named later by Karg (1965) to accommodate the monotypic species *Dendrolaelaps scotarius* Sheals, 1958. This genus is mainly characterized by having seven rows of hypognathal grooves, anterior row smooth, other six with deutosternal denticles and none of them widened, movable chela with 3 teeth, and gonoporus is associated with coxa leg IV (Karg, 1993, Lindquist, 1975). Lindquist (1975) suggested the inclusion of *D. badenhorsti* (Ryke, 1962) as the second known species in *Dendroseius*. Since then, Wiśniewski & Hirschmann, (1989, 1992) described two new species based on deutonymphs *D. gujarati* and *D. congoensis* from India and Africa respectively. Not much is known about the bio-ecology of these mites. *Dendroseius reticulatus* (= *D. scotarius*) is known from Europe and northern Africa and found in low numbers. It feeds on eggs and small mobile stages of collembolans (Collembola: Hexapoda), and occurs in soils of forests, grasslands and pastures (Karg, 1993). *Dendroseius badenhorsti* was collected from manure in South Africa, deutonymphs of *D. gujarati* from beetles in India and *D. congoensis* from under bark of Sapeli tree imported to Poland from Africa. Herein, we