



## The false spider mites of the genera *Aegyptobia* Sayed and *Phytoptipalpus* Trägårdh (Acari: Tenuipalpidae) from Iran

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### Abstract

Two new species of the genus *Aegyptobia* Sayed and 1 new species of *Phytoptipalpus* Trägårdh are described from Iran: *A. bromi* **sp. nov.** from *Bromus tectorum* (Poaceae); *A. nazarii* **sp. nov.** from *Poa bulbosa* L. (Poaceae); and *P. kurdistaniensis* **sp. nov.** from wild rose bushes, *Rosa woodsii* (Rosaceae). This is the first record of *Phytoptipalpus* from Iran. We also redescribe *Aegyptobia beglarovi* Livschitz and Mitrofanov, 1967, *A. persciae* Khorowshahi and Arbabi, 1997, *A. tragardhi* Sayed, 1950, and *A. salicicola* Al-Gboory, 1987; the latter species has only 2 anal setae and is thus moved to *Phytoptipalpus*. *Aegyptobia kharazii* Mesa and Moraes, 2009 **syn. nov.** is regarded as a junior synonym of *Aegyptobia beglarovi* Livschitz and Mitrofanov, 1967; *Aegyptobia ueckermanni* Khorowshahi and Arbabi, 1997 **syn. nov.** is regarded as a junior synonym of *Aegyptobia tragardhi* Sayed, 1950; *Aegyptobia daneshvari* Parsi and Khosrowshahi, 1990 **syn. nov.** is regarded as a junior synonym of *Phytoptipalpus salicicola* (Al-Gboory, 1987). A key to all known Iranian species of the genus *Aegyptobia* is provided.

**Key words:** Tetranychoida, synonymy, taxonomy, identification, flat mites

### Introduction

*Aegyptobia* Sayed (1950) is the third-largest genus of the family Tenuipalpidae, comprising 95 species (Khanjani *et al.* 2008; Mesa *et al.* 2009; Seeman & Beard 2011), and occur all over the world, although currently most species are from the Nearctic, Neotropical and Western Palearctic regions (Mesa *et al.* 2009). This genus is divided into two groups based on the form of the tarsal claws: the *A. tragardhi* group has uncinata claws and the *A. macswaini* group has pad-like claws bearing tenent hairs (Meyer 1979; Baker & Tuttle 1987; Meyer & Van Dis 1993). Of the seven species recorded from Iran so far, four species belong to the *A. tragardhi* group. These are *A. salicicola* Al-Gboory, 1987 (Khosrowshahi & Arbabi 1997), *A. tragardhi* Sayed, 1950, *A. beglarovi* Livschitz and Mitrofanov, 1967 (Kamali 1997), and *A. kharazii* Mesa and Moraes, 2009 (Khosrowshahi & Arbabi 1997). The *A. macswaini* group is represented by *A. iraniensis* Khanjani, Gotoh and Barimani, 2008, *A. glyptus* Pritchard and Baker, 1958 (Sepasgozarian 1977), and *A. periscae* Khosrowshahi and Arbabi, 1997 (Khosrowshahi & Arbabi 1997).

*Phytoptipalpus* is a genus closely related to *Aegyptobia* and separated from it by having just two pairs of anal setae. Its members comprise three unusual larviform species, including the type species *Phytoptipalpus paradoxus* Trägårdh, 1904, but the other 14 species are very similar to *Aegyptobia*. Although widespread, no *Phytoptipalpus* are known from the well-studied Nearctic zone (Mesa *et al.* 2009). Previously, this genus was not recorded from Iran, but it occurs in Pakistan (*Phytoptipalpus lepsis* Hasan, Ashfaq and Li, 2003 and *Phytoptipalpus lithos* Hasan, Ashfaq and Li, 2003) and Tajikistan (*Phytoptipalpus rosae* Mitrofanov and Strunkova, 1978).

Here, we describe two new species of *Aegyptobia* and one new species of *Phytoptipalpus*, redescribe four recognized species and provide three synonymies, reducing the total number of *Aegyptobia* species to 94 and increasing the total number of *Phytoptipalpus* species to 18.