



Article

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Two new eriophyoid mite species (Acari: Prostigmata: Eriophyidae) on *Euphorbia* spp. (Euphorbiaceae) from Iran

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Abstract

Eriophyoid mites infesting spurges (Euphorbiaceae) were surveyed in Kandovan and Govgan, southwest of East Azerbaijan Province in Iran, during 2010 and 2011. Two new species are described and illustrated: *Aculops seguieranae* n. sp. from *Euphorbia seguierana* Necker and *Euphorbia cheiradenia* Boiss. et Hohen, and *Aceria cheiradeniae* n. sp. from *E. cheiradenia*. No damage symptoms were observed.

Keywords: weeds, spurge, taxonomy, new species

Introduction

About 120 eriophyoid mite species have been recorded from spurges (Euphorbiaceae) around the world. Up to now, five and 19 of them have been found to belong to the genera *Aculops* and *Aceria*, respectively. Fourteen species (including three *Aculops* and three *Aceria*) have been associated with *Euphorbia* spp. and listed in the catalogue of Amrine and Stasny (1994). Since 1994, no other species have been found on *Euphorbia* spp.

Recently, the eriophyoid fauna of Iran has been more intensely investigated by authors such as Xue *et al.* 2009 and Xue *et al.* 2011. In a large survey of these tiny mites within the Azerbaijan province, two new species were collected from *Euphorbia* spp. and are herein described.

Material and methods

The eriophyoid mite fauna of spurges was studied from plant samples collected in Kandovan and Govgan, East Azerbaijan province, Iran, during July 2010 and 2011.

Specimens were recovered by washing the plant material (Monfreda *et al.* 2007). Some of them were slide mounted according to the protocol reported in Baker *et al.* (1996) and others were preserved in Oudemans' fluid (Walter & Krantz 2009) for future reference. Lindquist's (1996) terminology and setal notation were used for the morphological descriptions. The number of measured specimens (n) is given within parentheses in the description. All measurements were made according to Amrine and Manson (1996) and de Lillo *et al.* (2010), and are given in micrometres. Measurements and means are rounded off to the nearest integer when required, and refer to the length of the morphological characters unless specified otherwise. Because some measurements of the holotype could not be taken, due to the mounting position, the mean measurements of the paratypes are reported. Range values are given in parentheses except in cases of constant value.