**A contribution to the knowledge of scutacarid mites
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Coleoptera and Hymenoptera (Arthropoda: Insecta)
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Mohammad Sobhi, Hamidreza Hajiqanbar, Azim Mortazavi. A contribution to the knowledge of scutacarid mites (Acari: Pygmephoroidae: Scutacaridae) associated with Coleoptera and Hymenoptera (Arthropoda: Insecta) from northwestern Iran. *Acarologia*, 2017, 57 (4), pp.1103-1111. 10.24349/acarologia/20174222 . hal-01598605

HAL Id: hal-01598605

<https://hal.science/hal-01598605>

Submitted on 29 Sep 2017

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Subscriptions: Year 2017 (Volume 57): 380 €

<http://www1.montpellier.inra.fr/CBGP/acarologia/subscribe.php>

Previous volumes (2010-2015): 250 € / year (4 issues)

Acarologia, CBGP, CS 30016, 34988 MONTFERRIER-sur-LEZ Cedex, France

The digitalization of Acarologia papers prior to 2000 was supported by Agropolis Fondation under the reference ID 1500-024 through the « Investissements d'avenir » programme (Labex Agro: ANR-10-LABX-0001-01)

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A contribution to the knowledge of scutacarid mites (Acari: Pygmephoroidae: Scutacaridae) associated with Coleoptera and Hymenoptera (Arthropoda: Insecta) from northwestern Iran

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(Received 07 June 2017; accepted 18 July 2017; published online 29 September 2017; edited by Marie-Stéphane TIXIER)

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ABSTRACT — During the survey of heterostigmatic mites (Acari: Prostigmata) associated with insects in northwestern Iran, Ardabil province, 11 species from three genera of the family Scutacaridae were identified: *Heterodispus* (one species), *Scutacarus* (three species) and *Imparipes* (seven species). Among these, three species are recorded for the first time in Asia including Iran: *Imparipes* (*Imparipes*) *rafalskii* Dastych, 1978, *I. (I.) comatus* Mahunka, 1970 and *Scutacarus remissus* Khaustov, 2008. *I. (I.) lentus* Khaustov, 2008 is recorded for the first time in Iran. All host insects were captured directly from their habitats. Eight new insect host records are reported and the world distribution of these mites is reviewed. A key to Iranian scutacarid mites is also provided.

KEYWORDS — Heterostigmata; new hosts record; *Scutacarus*; *Imparipes*; *Heterodispus*

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INTRODUCTION

The family Scutacaridae Oudemans, 1916 (Acari: Heterostigmata) includes 25 genera and more than 800 species; all of them are fungivorous (Khaustov, 2008; Zhang *et al.*, 2011; Khaustov *et al.*, 2017). Most scutacarid mites are mainly associated with beetles, flies, and hymenopterans, especially various ants and bees (Ebermann, 1988; Khaustov, 2008; Ebermann and Moser, 2008; Ebermann *et al.*, 2013). All species of this family have free living habits and some of them have both phoretic and non phoretic female forms (dimorphism) for example, the genus *Archidispus* Karafiat, 1959 which dimorphic forms are typical for these mites (Eber-

mann, 1990, 1991a, b). Among the 25 described genera of this family, only six have been recorded from Iran until now: *Heterodispus* Paoli, 1911; *Scutacarus* Gros, 1845; *Imparipes* Berlese, 1903; *Pygmodispus*, *Archidispus* Karafiat, 1959 and *Lophodispus* Kurosa, 1972 (Mahunka and Rohde, 1970; Ebermann *et al.*, 2003; Hajiqanbar and Khaustov, 2014; Loghmani *et al.*, 2014; Katlav *et al.*, 2015, 2016; Sobhi *et al.*, 2017). In order to better characterize the fauna of this country, surveys were carried out in northwestern Iran.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

The study was conducted from June 2015 to May 2016 in northwestern Iran. The insect specimens

were captured directly from their habitats and all sampled specimens were adults. Mite specimens were retrieved from their hosts using an Olympus stereomicroscope. Mites were cleared in lacto-Nesbitt solution and mounted on slides in Hoyer's medium. The morphology of mites was studied using a compound microscope (model BX51, Olympus, Tokyo, Japan) equipped with phase contrast illumination. The bee genus *Andrena* was identified with the help of Dr. A. Talebi (Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran). The Tenebrionidae beetles were identified with the help of Maxim Nabozhenko (Russian Academy of Science, Russia). All ants were identified with the help of Dr. Bernhard Seifert (Department of Entomology, Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde, Berlin, Germany). Materials were collected by the senior author and deposited in the Acarological Collection, Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University (TMU), Tehran, Iran.

RESULTS

SYSTEMATICS

Family Scutacaridae Oudemans, 1916

Genus *Heterodispus* Paoli, 1911

Type species: *Imparipes elongates* Tragardh, 1904, by original designation.

Heterodispus (Heterodispus) turkmenistaniensis

Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2005

Heterodispus (Heterodispus) turkmenistaniensis Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2005, p. 155, Figures 1-5.

Material examined — Eight females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Koli Olia village, 38°41'N, 47°55'E, 29 May 2015, phoretic on the beetle *Blaps mortisaga* Reitter, 1904 (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae).

World distribution — Turkmenistan, collected from soil of cucumbers (Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2005); Iran, Kerman province, associated with beetle *Scarites (Scarites) procerus eurytus* Fischer von Waldheim (Coleoptera: Carabidae) (Mortazavi, 2010), Northeastern Iran, associated with beetle

Gonocephalum pubiferum Reitter (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae) (Loghmani, 2013), Northwestern Iran, Ardabil province (current study).

Remarks — Association between this mite and beetles of the tenebrionid genus *Blaps* is new. Considering previous and current records of this mite in Iran, it probably has a preference to be phoretic on beetles than on other insects.

Genus *Imparipes* Berlese, 1903

Type species: *Imparipes histricinus* Berlese, 1903, by original designation.

Imparipes (Imparipes) comatus Mahunka, 1970

Material examined — Two females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Ahmad Abad village, 38°21'N, 47°35'E, 14 May 2016, on ants *Tapinoma tauridis* Emery, 1925 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Hungary, from nest of *Formica* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Mahunka, 1970). It was also reported from France and Crimea to be phoretic on ants *Tapinoma erraticum* (Latreille) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae), *Lasius niger* (L.), *Myrmica rufa* Jerdon and *Tetramorium caespitum* (L.) (Khaustov, 2008); Iran (current study).

Remarks — Record of this species is new for mite fauna of Asia. Association between this mite and ant species *Tapinoma tauridis* is also new.

Imparipes (Imparipes) histricinus Berlese, 1903

Material examined — Two females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Koli Olia village, 38°41'N, 47°55'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Messor* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Angola, Australia, Austria, Bolivia, Brazil, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lithuania, Malaya, Mongolia, Russia, Tunisia, Ukraine and former Yugoslavia associated with ants *Tetramorium caespitum* L. and *Messor* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Khaustov, 2008; Khaustov and Tolstikov, 2016); Iran, Razavi Khorasan province, associated with

Cataglyphis cf. *nodus* (Brulle) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Hajiqanbar, 2010); Northeastern Iran, associated with *Temnothorax* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Loghmani *et al.*, 2014); Northwestern Iran, Ardabil province (current study).

***Imparipes (Imparipes) imaginatus* Mahunka, 1981**

Imparipes (Imparipes) imaginatus Mahunka, 1981: p. 355, Figures 29-35.

Material examined — Four females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, 38°21'N, 47°43'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Tetramorium* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Hungary, from ant nest (Mahunka, 1981); Austria (Ebermann, 2004); Russia, on ant *Tetramorium caespitum* L. (Khaustov and Tolstikov, 2016); Iran, Golestan province, phoretic on an unidentified ant (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Badoodam, 2014); Ardabil province (current study).

Remarks — The ant genus *Tetramorium* is a new phoretic host for this mite species.

***Imparipes (Imparipes) lentus* Khaustov, 2008**

Imparipes (Imparipes) lentus Khaustov, 2008: p. 120, Figures 76 (1-4).

Material examined — Five females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, altitudes of Mount Sabalan, 38°21'N, 47°54'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Tetramorium* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Crimea, Western Siberia, on ants *Tetramorium caespitum* L. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Khaustov, 2008; Khaustov and Tolstikov, 2016); Iran (current study).

Remarks — This species is new for mite fauna of Iran.

***Imparipes (Imparipes) placidus*
Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004**

Imparipes (Imparipes) placidus Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004: p. 97, Figures 35-41.

Material examined — Five females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Mount Sabalan altitudes, 38°21'N, 47°54'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Tetramorium*

sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae). Five females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Gooshe Olia village, 38°44'N, 47°56'E, 12 May 2016, on ants *Lasius obscuratus* Stitz, 1930 (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Turkmenistan, associated with the ant *Messor excursionis* Ruszky (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004); Iran, Isfahan province, phoretic on an unidentified ant (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Tajodin, 2013); Ardabil province (current study).

Remarks — Ants of the genera *Tetramorium* and *Lasius* are new phoretic hosts for this species.

***Imparipes (Imparipes) rafalskii* Dastych, 1978**

Imparipes (Imparipes) rafalskii Dastych, 1978: p. 251, Figures 1-9.

Material examined — Two females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Koli Olia village, 38°41'N, 47°55'E, 29 May 2015, phoretic on the bee *Andrena* sp. (Hymenoptera: Andrenidae).

World distribution — Poland, phoretic on *Dasy-poda hirtipes* (Fabricius) (Hymenoptera: Melittidae) (Dastych, 1978); Ukraine, phoretic on *Bombus terrestris* L. (Hymenoptera: Apidae) (Zaloznaya and Khaustov, 2007); Iran (current study).

Remarks — Record of this species is new for mite fauna of Asia. Bees of the family Andrenidae are also new recorded hosts for this mite species.

***Imparipes (Imparipes) tenuis* Mahunka, 1981**

Imparipes (Imparipes) tenuis Mahunka, 1981: p. 358, Figures 40-43.

Material examined — Three females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, altitudes of Mount Sabalan, 38°21'N, 47°54'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Tetramorium* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Hungary, from ant nests (Mahunka, 1981); Austria (Ebermann, 2004); Iran, Kerman province associated with an unidentified ant (Mortazavi *et al.*, 2016); Ardabil province (current study).

Remarks — Association between this mite and ants of the genus *Tetramorium* is new.

Genus *Scutacarus* Gros, 1845

Type species: *Scutacarus femoris* Gros, 1845, by monotypy.

***Scutacarus remissus* Khaustov, 2008**

Scutacarus remissus Khaustov, 2008: p. 246, Figures 173 (1-3).

Material examined — Five females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Koli Olia village, 38°41'N, 47°55'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Messor* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Crimea, phoretic on *Messor* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Khaustov, 2008); Iran (current study)

Remarks — This species is new for mite fauna of Asia.

Scutacarus shivicki

Lazauskene and Sevastianov, 1974

Synonyms: *S. frumentaceus* Sevastianov, 1983; *S. iharosi* Mahunka & Zaki, 1985; *S. diversisetus* Sevastianov & Chydyrov, 1992; *S. furatensis* Sevastianov & Zahida Al Douri, 1988.

Material examined — One female, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Koli Olia village, 38°41'N, 47°55'E, 25 May 2016, on ants *Messor* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Lithuania and Hungary from Soil and litter (Lazauskene and Sevastianov, 1974; Sevastianov, 1983; Mahunka and Zaki, 1985; Sevastianov and Chydyrov, 1992; Sevastianov and Zahida Al Douri, 1988); Iran, East Azarbaijan province, soil of alfalfa fields (Lotfollahy *et al.*, 2009); Ardabil province (current study).

Remarks — This species has been recorded several times from soil and litter, and its phoretic relationship was hitherto unknown. Therefore, it is first record of phoresy (including ant genus *Messor*) for this mite species.

Scutacarus subquadratus

Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004

Scutacarus subquadratus Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004: p. 101, Figures 53-58.

Material examined — Six females, Ardabil province, Meshgin-shahr, Guda Kahriz village, 38°36'N, 47°48'E, 7 May 2016, on ants *Cataglyphis* sp. (Hymenoptera: Formicidae).

World distribution — Turkmenistan, associated with *Tetramorium schneideri* Emery (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004); Iran, East Azarbaijan province, soil of alfalfa fields (Lotfollahy *et al.*, 2009); Razavi Khorasan province associated with *Cataglyphis* cf. *nodus* (Brulle) (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) (Hajiqanbar, 2010); North-eastern Iran, associated with *Tricholabiodes* sp. (Hymenoptera: Mutillidae) and *Cataglyphis* cf. *nodus* (Loghmani *et al.*, 2014); Ardabil province (current study).

DISCUSSION ON THE SCUTACARID-FAUNA OF IRAN

Forty five species of scutacarid mites recorded from Iran are distributed in genera *Scutacarus* (17 species), *Imparipes* (16), *Archidispus* (7), *Heterodispus* (2), *Pygmodispus* (2) and *Lophodispus* (1). Some species are well adapted to live in soil and litter, such as both representatives of the genus *Pygmodispus* (Ebermann *et al.*, 2003) and some species of the genera *Scutacarus* and *Imparipes* (see Kamali *et al.*, 2001; Lotfollahy *et al.*, 2009; Hashemi Khabir *et al.*, 2013). All *Archidispus* species, *Lophodispus* and many *Scutacarus* and *Imparipes* species have been found associated to various coleopterans and hymenopterans. Mites were found on beetles of the families Carabidae and rarely Staphylinidae (Hajiqanbar and Khaustov, 2014; Loghmani *et al.*, 2014; Katlav *et al.*, 2015, 2016). Ants constitute the most dominant insect hosts for *Lophodispus*, *Imparipes* and *Scutacarus* species (Loghmani *et al.*, 2014; Katlav *et al.*, 2015; Sobhi *et al.*, 2017a, b). However, a few species of *Imparipes* (*I. paulyi*, *I. burgeri* and *I. rafalskii*) and *Scutacarus acarorum* are phoretic on bees (Kazemi and Kamali, 2006; Loghmani *et al.*, 2014;

Kiani Bakiani *et al.*, 2016). All 45 Iranian scutacarids could be identified using the following key.

Key to Iranian scutacarid mites (females)

1. Legs IV with four segments 29
— Legs IV with five segments 2
2. Tibia IV with four setae *Pygmodispus* 3
— Tibia IV with three setae 4
3. Posterior sternal plate expanded; setae c_2 longer than c_1 ; setae 4c spine-like. *P. (Allodispus) latisternus* Paoli, 1911
— Posterior sternal plate not expanded; setae c_2 and c_1 subequal; setae 4c setiform. *P. (Pygmodispus) calcaratus* Paoli, 1911
4. Setae c_1 inserted on free margin of tergite C; tarsus IV seta u' absent *Heterodispus* 5
— Setae c_1 inserted on central part of tergite C; tarsus IV seta u' usually present 6
5. Tibia IV seta l' extending beyond base of pretarsus; femur IV seta d longer than genu IV seta v' *H. verrucosus* Mahunka and Rohde, 1970
— Tibia IV seta l' never reaching to base of pretarsus; femur IV seta d shorter than genu IV seta v' *H. turkmenistaniensis* Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2005
6. Second pharyngeal pump weakly discernible; anterior margin of anterior sternal plate with crown of thin process *Lophodispus tapinoma* Sobhi and Hajiqanbar, 2017
— Second pharyngeal pump much larger than first and third; anterior margin of anterior sternal plate without process 7
7. Tarsus IV gradually tapering to the apex; with two types of females, non-phoretic and phoretic, the latter with massive tibiotarsus I and large claw *Archidispus* 8
- Tarsus IV with expanded base and abruptly becoming thin distally; with only one type of females, tibiotarsus I with middle-size claw, sometimes absent *Imparipes* 14
8. Setae ps_2 apart from ps_1 ; pretarsus IV short (6-7); setae 4c modified, thickened basally *A. irregularis* Katlav and Hajiqanbar, 2016
— Setae ps_2 and ps_1 generally with joined basal rings; pretarsus IV with various sizes but longer than 7; setae 4c not modified 9
9. At least dorsal setae c_1 , d and f modified, expanded basally 10
— All dorsal setae not modified, setiform 11
10. Dorsal setae c_2 modified, expanded basally; among ventral setae, only setae 4a modified, dilated. *A. armatus* (Karafiat, 1959)
— Dorsal setae c_2 not modified, setiform; among ventral setae, 4a and 4b modified, expanded basally *A. insolitus* (Kurosa, 1974)
11. Setae f distinctly longer than h_2 ; setae 2b shorter than 2a *A. bembidii* (Karafiat, 1959)
— Setae f distinctly shorter than h_2 ; setae 2b longer than 2a 12
12. Setae 3b and 4a not modified, setiform. *A. esfarayenicus* Hajiqanbar and Khaustov, 2014
— Setae 3b and 4a modified 13
13. Setae 4b modified, thickened basally; setae 1a setiform *A. minor* Karafiat, 1959
— Setae 4b not modified, setiform; setae 1a modified, dilated *A. conspicuus* Kurosa, 1978
14. Gnathosoma very wide, with subequal length and width Subgenus *I. (Sporichneutes)* *I. (S.) intermedius* Paoli, 1911

- Gnathosoma always longer than its width 15
- 15. Tibiotarsus I with three solenidia; pretarsus IV with no claws Subgenus *I. (Apidacarus)*...
..... *I. (A.) paulyi* Ebermann and Fain, 2002
- Tibiotarsus I with four solenidia; pretarsus IV usually with claw Subgenus *I. (Imparipes)*... 16
- 16. Pretarsus IV very short, with thickening end..... *I. rafalskii* Dastych, 1978
- Pretarsus IV not as above 17
- 17. Setae 3*b*, 4*a* and 4*b* modified, expanded basally..... *I. insulanus* Delfinado *et al.* 1976
- Setae 3*b*, 4*a* and 4*b* not modified, setiform 18
- 18. Setae *f* and *h*₁ lanceolate *I. tataricus* Sevastianov, 1964
- Setae *f* and *h*₁ not lanceolate 19
- 19. Setae 3*c* at the same level or posterior to 3*b*...20
- Setae 3*c* anterior to 3*b*.....21
- 20. Setae *c*₁ and *d* subequal; setae *f* longer than *h*₁; setae 4*a* shorter than *ps*₁ *I. imaginatus* Mahunka, 1981
- Setae *c*₁ shorter than *d*; setae *f* and *h*₁ subequal; setae 4*a* longer than *ps*₁ *I. tenuis* Mahunka, 1981
- 21. Setae *ps*₂ longer than half of *ps*₁ length..... 22
- Setae *ps*₂ not longer than half of *ps*₁ length 23
- 22. Setae *e* and *h*₂ longer than *f* and *h*₁; interval between setae 4*a* longer than that between 4*b*..... *I. longisetosus* Willman, 1951
- Setae *e* and *h*₂ shorter than *f* and *h*₁; interval between setae 4*a* shorter than that between 4*b*..... *I. comatus* Mahunka, 1970
- 23. Setae *ps*₂ equal to half of *ps*₁ length.....
..... *I. longitarsus* Delfinado *et al.*, 1976
- Setae *ps*₂ shorter than half of *ps*₁ length 24
- 24. Setae *f* longer than *h*₁ 25
- Setae *f* not longer than *h*₁ 26
- 25. Setae *d* longer than *h*₂; trochanter IV seta *d* not reaching to base of tarsus *I. placidus* Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004
- Setae *d* shorter than *h*₂; trochanter IV seta *d* protruding base of tarsus *I. lentus* Khaustov, 2008
- 26. Setae *f* shorter than interval between their bases..... 27
- Setae *f* longer than interval between their bases..... 28
- 27. Setae *d* never reaching to bases of tergite EF setae; setae 4*b* never reaching to posterior border of idiosoma *I. kugitangensis* Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004
- Setae *d* extending beyond bases of tergite EF setae; setae 4*b* reaching to posterior border of idiosoma..... *I. burgeri* Ebermann and Jagersbacher-Baumann, 2013
- 28. Setae *h*₁ distinctly longer than *h*₂; setae *ps*₁ and *h*₂ subequal *I. histricinus* Berlese, 1903
- Setae *h*₁ shorter than *h*₂; setae *h*₂ distinctly longer than *ps*₁..... *I. parapicola* Delfinado *et al.*, 1976
- 29. Tibiotarsus I without claw 30
- Tibiotarsus I with claw 32
- 30. Setae *h*₁ and *h*₂ distinctly thickened, with extremely large barbs *S. eucomus* (Berlese, 1908)
- Setae *h*₁ and *h*₂ not thickened, with no large barbs..... 31

31. Setae h_1 shorter than interval between their bases; setae $4a$ and h_1 subequal.... *S. quadrangularis* (Paoli, 1911)
— Setae h_1 longer than interval between their bases; setae h_1 longer than $4a$ *S. contiguus* Delfinado *et al.*, 1976
32. Setae $4b$ absent *S. ebermanni* Sobhi and Hajiqanbar, 2017
— Setae $4b$ present 33
33. Setae e and h_2 reduced 34
— Setae e and h_2 well developed 36
34. Apodemes 5 well developed; secondary transverse apodeme (sta) present. *S. shajariani* Sobhi and Hajiqanbar, 2017
— Apodemes 5 reduced; secondary transverse apodeme (sta) absent 35
35. Setae ps_1 and ps_2 subequal, barbed, longer than $4a$ *S. remissus* Khaustov, 2008
— Setae ps_1 longer than ps_2 ; ps_1 weakly barbed, ps_2 smooth, both shorter than $4a$ *S. iranicus* Ebermann *et al.*, 2003
36. Setae f characteristically short, at least five times shorter than e and h_2 *S. transfusionis* Mahunka and Mahunka-Papp, 1980
— Setae f well developed, not as above 37
37. Tibiotarsus IV with six setae 38
— Tibiotarsus IV with seven setae 39
38. Setae $4b$ more than four times longer than $4a$; setae ps_1 and ps_2 subequal *S. subquadratus* Khaustov and Chydyrov, 2004
— Setae $4b$ about twice as long as $4a$; setae ps_1 twice as long as ps_2 *S. apodemi* Mahunka, 1963

39. Setae f and h_1 pinnate; h_2 thickened with large barbs *S. plumosus* (Paoli, 1911)
— Setae f , h_1 and h_2 not as above 40
40. Setae c_1 , d , f and h_1 clavate *S. claviger* (Paoli, 1911)
— Setae c_1 , d , f and h_1 not clavate 41
41. Setae e and h_2 subequal, spine-like .. *S. acarorum* (Goeze, 1780)
— Setae e and h_2 in various length, not spine-like..... 42
42. Barbed setae f at least eight times longer than smooth setae e ... *S. communis* Delfinado *et al.*, 1976
— Setae e longer than f or f only slightly longer than e 43
43. Setae e distinctly longer than f ; setae f and h_1 lanceolate..... *S. shivicki* Lazauskene and Sevastianov, 1974
— Setae f slightly longer than e ; setae f and h_1 not lanceolate..... 44
44. Setae ps_1 and ps_2 subequal, longer than ps_3 ; setae f and h_1 subequal *S. fragariae* Rack, 1975
— Setae ps_1 longer than subequal setae ps_2 and ps_3 ; setae h_1 longer than f *S. serotinus* Sevastianov and Chydyrov, 1992

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are grateful to the following persons for help to identify the insect hosts: Drs. Ali Asghar Talebi, Maxim Nabozhenko and Bernhard Seifert.

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