A new species of the genus *Zercon* Koch (Acari, Gamasida, Zerconidae) from Turkey

by Raşit Urhan

Abstract: A new species of zerconid mites, *Zercon separatus* sp.n., is described and illustrated on the basis of material collected from samples of litter and soil in a coniferous forest (mostly *Pinus* sp.) in the Artvin Province of Turkey. The characteristics of the new species and its differences from the most closely related species, *Z. solenites* Haarlov and *Z. hibericus* Mihelcic, are given.

Kurzfassung: Aus Bodenproben, die in einem Kiefernwald (hauptsächlich *Pinus* sp.) in der Provinz Artvin, Türkei, gesammelt wurden, wurde eine für die Wissenschaft neue Art von Milben gefunden: *Zercon separatus* sp.n. Die Merkmale der neuen Art werden beschrieben und abgebildet, und sie wird von ihren beiden nächsten Verwandten, *Z. solenites* Haarlov und *Z. hibericus* Mihelcic, abgegrenzt.

Key words: Acarology, taxonomy, new species, Zerconidae, Acari, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

Zerconid mites occur in the humus and litter of woodlands, grassland and among mosses and lichens. The genus *Zercon* C. L. Koch, 1836, containing a number of species, is the richest in the family Zerconidae. So far, 25 species of *Zercon* have been recorded from Turkey (BLASZAK 1979, URHAN & AYYILDIZ 1994a, 1994b, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, URHAN 1997a, 1997b, 1998, 2000). During studies on the family Zerconidae in Turkey, I found an undescribed species of the genus. This paper deals with its description. Morphological terminology used in the description follows that of SELLNICK (1958) and BLASZAK (1974).

Zercon separatus sp.n.

(Figs. 1–6)

Female (Figs. 1, 2): Length of idiosoma (excluding gnathosoma) in holotype 483 µm, width 378 µm. Measurements of 22 paratypes: length 481 (470–497) µm, width 367 (360–378) µm. Dorsal setae (Fig. 1): On the podonotum seta J_1 feathered, setae r4–r6 delicately barbed. The remaining setae of the podonotum smooth. On the opisthonotum setae J_1–J_5 short and smooth. Seta J_6 long, barbed with hyaline ending. Setae J_6–J_6 lie 116 µm apart from each other. Setae Z_1–Z_3 short and smooth. Seta Z_4 similar to seta J_6 and reaches a third of length posterior margin of opisthonotum. Seta Z_5 delicately barbed. Distance between setae Z_5–J_6 24 µm. Setae S_1 and S_2 short and smooth. Seta S_2 does not reach margin of opisthonotum. Setae S_3 and S_4 similar to seta J_6. Seta S_3 exceeds opisthonotum margin of half length. All marginal

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