

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

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Abstract. Two species of zerconid mites are described as new to science: *Zercon quadricavum* sp. n. and *Zercon fragilis* sp.n. Both species were found in Turkey and are illustrated and compared with the most closely related species of *Zercon*. Distinguishing features are given.

Kurzfassung. Aus der Türkei werden zwei neue Arten von Bodenmilben beschrieben: *Zercon quadricavum* sp. n. und *Zercon fragilis* sp.n. Beide Arten werden abgebildet und mit den nächstverwandten *Zercon*-Arten verglichen. Die Unterscheidungsmerkmale werden dargestellt.

Key words. Acarology, Arachnida, taxonomy, new species, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

The members of the family Zerconidae occur in humus, woodland litter, grassland and among mosses and lichens. These mites are considered to be oligophagous predators (EVANS & MURPHY 1987). Until now, 26 species of *Zercon* C. L. Koch, 1836 have been recorded from Turkey (BLASZAK 1979, URHAN & AYYILDIZ 1994a, 1994b, 1996a, 1996b, 1996c, URHAN 1997a, 1997b, 1998, 2001a, 2001b). In this paper, two species of *Zercon* are described as new to science from material collected during studies on the zerconid mites of Turkey. The morphological terminology used in the descriptions follows that of SELLNICK (1958) and BLASZAK (1974).

Zercon quadricavum n. sp. (Figs. 1, 2)

Description (female) (Figs. 1, 2): Length of idiosoma (excluding gnathosoma) in holotype 420 µm, width 294 µm. Measurements of 32 paratypes: length 430 (390–453) µm, width 308 (294–327) µm. Dorsal setae (Fig. 1): On the podonotum seta j^1 feathered, setae r^5 and r^6 delicately barbed. The remaining setae of the podonotum smooth. On the opisthonotum setae J_1 , J_2 , Z_1 , Z_2 and S_1 short and smooth. Seta J_3 - J_6 long, barbed with hyaline tips. Seta J_3 reaches to the base of seta J_4 . Setae J_6 - J_6 lie 107 µm apart from one another. Setae Z_3 - Z_4 similar to seta J_6 . Seta Z_3 reaches to the base of seta Z_4 . Seta Z_4 reaches to posterior margin of opisthonotum. Seta Z_5 delicately barbed. Distance between setae Z_5 - J_6 23 µm. Setae S_2 - S_4 similar to seta J_6 . Seta S_2 does not reach margin of opisthonotum. Seta S_3 reaches to margin of opisthonotum. Setae R_1 - R_2 similar to seta Z_5 , the remainder of this row smooth. Length of opisthonal setae and distances between setae within longitudinal rows are as follows: