

# 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  $\mu\text{m}$ , width 294  $\mu\text{m}$ . Measurements of 32 paratypes: length 430 (390–453)  $\mu\text{m}$ , width 308 (294–327)  $\mu\text{m}$ . 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  $\mu\text{m}$  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  $\mu\text{m}$ . 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: