

Forty years of studies by Iranian entomologists on the Chrysopidae fauna of Iran (1961–2000) (Insecta, Neuroptera)

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Abstract. The first check-list of the Iranian fauna of the neuropteran family Chrysopidae was published more than forty years ago (FARAHBAKHS 1961). Since then, a number of Iranian authors have collected and reported on specimens of Chrysopidae, and have studied their biology, ecology, and taxonomy in various regions of Iran. This paper summarises their findings.

Kurzfassung. Die erste Übersicht über die Chrysopidae (Neuroptera) des Irans ist vor über 40 Jahren erschienen (FARAHBAKHS 1961). Seitdem sammelte eine Anzahl iranischer Autoren weiteres Material und berichtete über Biologie, Ökologie und Taxonomie in verschiedenen Regionen des Irans. In dieser Arbeit werden deren wichtigsten Ergebnisse zusammengefasst.

Key words. Chrysopidae, Iranian entomologists, taxonomy, faunistics.

McLACHLAN (1875) and NAVAS (1914) were the first entomologists to publish a list of Neuroptera of the Middle East. Many years later, HÖLZEL (1966) published records of eleven species of Chrysopidae for the fauna of Iran. HÖLZEL (1967) published a list of the Chrysopidae of Iran, in which he described the morphological characters of each species, gave identification keys, and recorded data on collecting dates and localities. This list already comprises 23 species (HÖLZEL l.c.). Some years later the same author described two new chrysopid species, i.e. *Anisochrysa mira* and *Suarius ressl*. The material on which these descriptions were based was collected by F. RESSL in 1970 and by E. and A. VARTIAN in 1971 (HÖLZEL 1974). In 1982, HÖLZEL described the new chrysopid *Suarius laristanus*, which was collected by F. RESSL in 1970 in southern Iran. ASPÖCK et al. (1980) were other major neuropterists who worked on the Chrysopidae fauna of Iran. In their book 'Die Neuropteren Europas', they mentioned four species of *Anisochrysa*, six species of *Chrysopa*, one species of *Chrysoperla*, and one species of *Suarius* as forming part of the chrysopid fauna of Iran (ASPÖCK l.c.). HÖLZEL was undoubtedly the first European neuropterist to study the Iranian Chrysopidae fauna in detail, but he himself never visited Iran and the specimens he studied were collected mainly by E. & A. VARTIAN, an Austrian-Armenian couple visiting Iran as tourists and amateur insect collectors.

FARAHBAKHS (1961) published a list of the major agricultural pests of Iran, an important paper in which he was the first Iranian entomologist to mention a neuropterid from this country, namely *Chrysopa vulgaris*. This was the only species of Chrysopidae to be present in crop fields in association with aphids in Iran. Subsequently, ASKARI (1968) reported *Chrysopa perla* and *C. vulgaris* as two species of Chrysopidae present in aphid colonies in