Zercon honazicus sp. n., a new species of mite from Turkey

(Acari: Zerconidae)

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Abstract. A new species of zerconid mite, *Zercon honazicus* sp. n., is described and illustrated from Turkey. Diagnostic characters include an anterior margin of the ventro-anal shield which has two pairs of setae and dorsal cavities which are distinct, saddle-like and have an undulating anterior margin. On the podonotum, setae j2 are finely barbed and r3 thickened, prolonged, apically pilose, and terminating in a hyaline ending. The opisthonotal shield has a distinct reticulate pattern in the anterior region and a punctuate pattern in the posterior region. The new species is closely related to Z. *zelawaiensis* Sellnick, 1944 and *Z. rafaljanus* Blaszak & Laniecka, 2007. Diagnostic features are given in a table.

Key words. Acari, Zerconidae, *Zercon*, taxonomy, Turkey, Middle East.

Introduction

So far, 46 species of the genus *Zercon* have been recorded from Turkey (BŁASZAK 1979, URHAN 2007, 2008a-c). In this paper, as a contribution to our understanding of the acarine faunal richness of Turkey, a new species of *Zercon*, *Zercon honazicus* sp. n., is described based on material collected during a study of zerconid mites in Honaz Dağı National Park (Turkey).

Methods

Soil and litter samples were placed in plastic bags, labeled and transferred to the laboratory. Samples were placed into Berlese funnels, and mites were extracted for 5-7 days according to their moisture content. At the end of this process, the contents of the funnels' collecting bottles were transferred into Petri dishes and mites were separated under a stereo-microscope. They were placed in 60% lactic acid for clearing and mounted on permanent microscope slides using a glycerine medium. The examination and drawing of mites were carried out using an Olympus BX50 microscope. Morphological terminology used in the description follows that of SELLNICK (1958), HALAŠKOVÁ (1969), BŁASZAK (1974) and MAŠÁN & FENĎA (2004).

Zercon honazicus sp. n. (Figs. 1A-F)

Material: Holotype: ♀. Turkey, Denizli, Honaz, Honaz Dağı National Park, 37°41'N, 29°16'E, 2034 m, 25.xi.2008. Sample of litter and soil underlying *Juniperus commonis*, *Paliurus spina-chiristi*, *Astragalus* sp. and *Acatholimon* sp. – Paratypes: 35 ♂, 62 ♀, 18 deutonymphs and 11 protonymphs, same data as holotype. Type deposition: Paratypes (1 ♀, 1 ♂) in the Zoological Museum of Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey. Holotype and other paratypes in the Department of Biology of Pamukkale University, Denizli, Turkey.

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