

Description of *Allothrombium shirazicum* deutonymph (Acari: Trombidiidae) from Iran

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Introduction

Allothrombium shirazicum Zhang (Acari: Trombidiidae) was described from larvae parasitic on aphids in Shiraz, Iran (Zhang & Rastegari 1996). In this note, we describe the prelarva and deutonymph of this species from specimens reared from eggs collected in Saveh, Iran.

Material and methods

One egg mass was collected on 7 March 1994 from the soil in Saveh, Iran. The eggs were reared in a laboratory at 25±1°C, 70-95% RH and 15L/9D. Larvae were fed rose aphids. On 20 May, some prelarvae (ARS-73 SAP) and a deutonymph (ARS-73 SA) reared from eggs were cleared in lactophenol and mounted on slides using Hoyer's medium (Krantz 1978).

In the descriptions, all measurements were made in micrometres. Abbreviation and terminology were adapted from Southcott (1986). Specimens were deposited in the Entomology Laboratory Collection, College of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modarres University, Tehran, Iran.

Descriptions

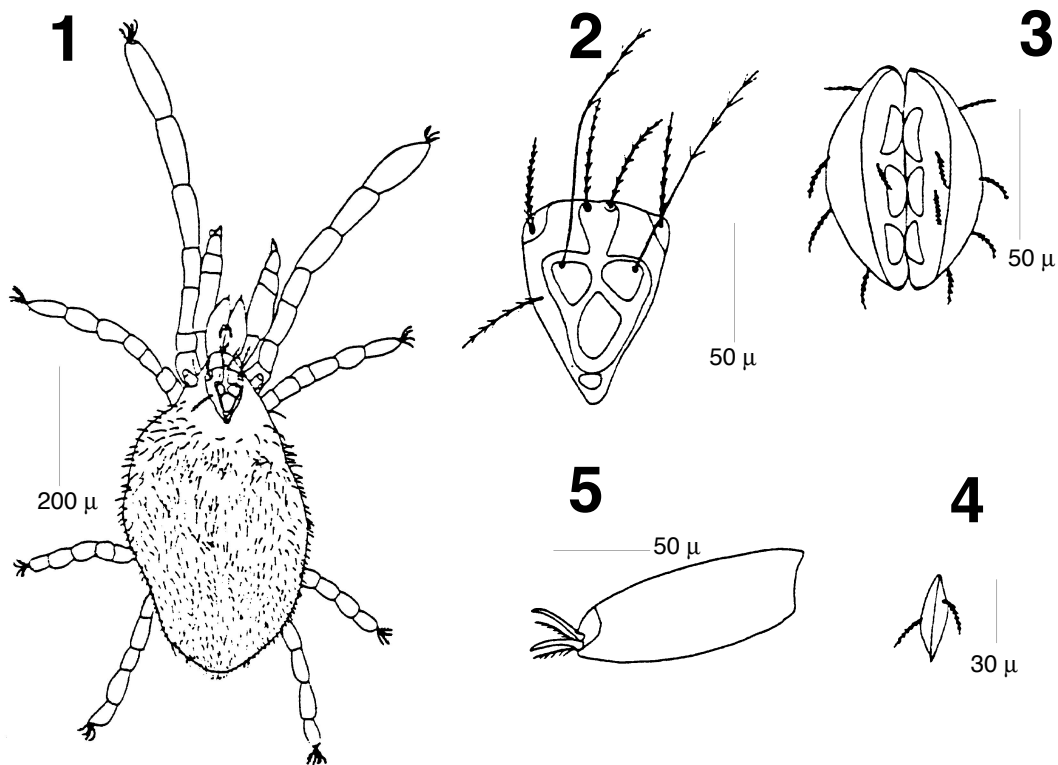
Egg: Colour in life light orange. Spheroidal in shape. Length 200, minimum diameter 180.

Prelarvae: From a slide lacking chorion (ARS-73 SAP). Shape normal for *Allothrombium* prelarvae. Size 272 x 385 (excluding legs), 272 x 267 (including legs).

Deutonymph (Figs. 1-5): Idiosoma covered with setae, 514 long to posterior end of chelicerae, 717 to tip of chelicerae, maximum width 332 (Fig. 1). Crista and lateral plates on a triangular plate (Fig. 2). Crista metopica with a pair of long setulose setae anteriorly. Sensillae long, filiform, with distal half setulose. Two lateral plates small, each with a long, setulose seta. A pair of eyes on a pair of peduncles; anterior eye larger than posterior one. Measurements: ASB 33, PSB 63, L 96, W 69, SB 33, Sens 99, EPL 28, EPW 28, MDS 28, PDS 33.

External genitalia 66 x 88, with 3+3 acetabulae (Fig. 3); internal valves with 3 setae (2 on the right and one on the left); external valves each with 4 setae. Anus 14 x 38, with 1 seta on each valve (Fig. 4).

Palpi normal. Palptarsus clavate, 19 x 28. Chelicerae robust, basis elongate-pyriform. Cheliceral base 102 long, 36 wide. Cheliceral blades robust, 33 long, with 2-3 small dorsal denticles.



FIGURES 1-5. *Allothrombium shirazicum* Zhang (deutonymph). 1, dorsal view (leg setae not shown); 2, crista metopica; 3, external genitalia; 4, anus; 5, tarsus I.

Legs covered with short setae. Leg I longer than other legs; leg III shortest. Leg length including coxae and claws: I 546, II 353, III 321, IV 407. Each tarsus with a pair of claws and a feathered empodium (Fig. 5). Measurements of leg segments: TaI (L) 104, TaI (H) 44, TiI 88, GeI 82, TaII (L) 63, TaII (H) 28, TiII 52, GeII 52, TaIII (L) 44, TaIII (H) 28, TiIII 52, GeIII 44, TaIV (L) 44, TaIV (H) 28, TiIV 74, GeIV 66.

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