

Description of *Allothrombium triticium* adult (Acari: Trombidiidae) from Iran

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Introduction

Allothrombium triticium Zhang, 1995 (Acari: Trombidiidae) was described from larvae ectoparasitic on aphids in Shahrkord, Iran (Zhang & Norbakhsh 1995). In this note, we describe the adult female of this species from specimens collected under stones in Tehran, Iran.

Material and methods

Some adults trombidiid mites were collected under stones on 29 November 1996 in Tehran, Iran. They were reared in a laboratory at 25±1°C, 70-80 %RH and 15L/9D in a plastic petri dish (diameter 15 cm and height 4 cm) with moist soil as the substrate and were fed with rose aphids (*Macrosiphum rosae* (L.)). When eggs were laid, one egg mass was placed in a vial (diameter 2.5 cm and length 6 cm) plugged with a ball of cotton to prevent larvae from escaping. The vial with the egg mass was held at 25±1°C, 80-95 %RH and 15L/9D. When larvae appeared, they were determined as *Allothrombium triticium*. Some adult females and larvae were cleared in Nesbitt's fluid and mounted on slides using Hoyer's medium (Krantz 1978).

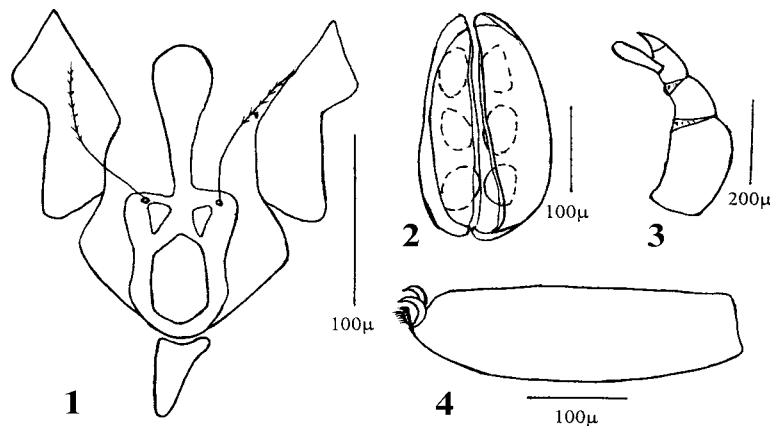
All measurements, given in micrometers, are in the format: average (min.-max.). Abbreviations and terminology used in this note are adapted from Southcott (1986). Specimens are deposited in the Acarological Collection, Zoological Museum, College of Agriculture, Tehran University, Karaj, Iran.

Descriptions

Egg: Colour in life orange. Spheroidal in shape. Diameter 247-357 (in the adult body).

Female (Figs.1-4): From a slide (ARS-19961129-1b), Iran, Tehran, A.Saboori, 29 November 1996. Idiosoma 3850 (3657-3988) long to posterior end of chelicerae, 4640 (4509-4730) to tip of chelicerae, maximum width 2186 (2062-2310), covered with setae. Crista and lateral plates separate and distinct (Fig.1). Crista metopica with some long setulose setae anteriorly. Sensillae long, filiform, with distal half setulose. Two lateral plates large, each with some long setulose setae. A pair of eyes on a pair of peduncles; anterior eye larger than posterior ones. Measurements: ASB 310 (278-332), PSB 256 (192-299), L 566 (470- 631), W 205 (192-223), SB 136 (128-150), Sens 268 (247-289), EPL 163 (135-176), EPW 144 (143-146),MDS 82-113 (50-121), PDS 167 (165-176).

External genitalia 441 (428-471) × 276 (215-375), with 3 +3 acetabulae (Fig.2); internal and external valves with some setae. Anus 125 (43-160) × 36 (32-75).



FIGURES 1-4. *Allothrombium triticium* Zhang (adult, female). 1, crista; 2, external genitalia; 3, palp; 4, tarsus I.

Palpi normal. Palptarsus clavate, 228 (214-235) × 67 (64-74) (Fig.3). Chelicerae robust, basis elongate-pyriform. Cheliceral base 599 (588-620) long, 163 (139-203) wide. Cheliceral blades robust, 161 (150-171) long, with 12 dorsal denticles.

Legs covered with short setae. Leg I longer than other legs; leg III shortest. Leg length including coxae and excluding claws: I 3254 (2887-3575), II 2220 (2145-2337), III 2046 (2035-2067), IV 2952 (2722-3245). Each tarsus with a pair of claws and feathered empodium (Fig.4). Measurements of leg segments: TaI (L) 542 (525-567), TaI (H) 162 (160-165), TiI 651 (642-663), GeI 587 (585-588), TaII (L) 397 (385-412), TaII (H) 114 (96-139), TiII 386 (357-406), GeII 348 (330-363), TaIII (L) 352 (342-357), TaIII (H) 112 (110-117), TiIII 365 (353-385), GeIII 341 (330-350), TaIV(L) 442 (438-450), TaIV (H) 134 (118-150), TiIV 570 (525- 588), GeIV 485 (440-503).

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