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CHEYLOSTIGMAEUS HASSANPOURI N. SP., A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS CHEYLOSTIGMAEUS WILLMANN, 1951 (ACARI: TROMBIDIFORMES: STIGMAEIDAE) FROM NORTHWEST IRAN

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ABSTRACT — A new species of the genus Cheylostigmaeus (Acari: Stigmaeidae) is described and illustrated based on females and males collected from soil under apple trees in Marand, East Azerbaijan Province, Iran.

KEYWORDS — Acari; Prostigmata; Stigmaeidae; Cheylostigmaeus; Iran

INTRODUCTION

Members of the family Stigmaeidae are ecologically diverse, acting as predators of spider mites, scale insects, especially their eggs in leaf litter and on trees, and as herbivores on moss (Akyol and Koç 2010). This family is one of the most important predatory mite family after Phytoseiidae (Santos and Laing 1985, Croft 1994, Khanjani et al. 2010). To date 26 species of the genus Cheylostigmaeus have been described worldwide (Fan and Zhang 2004, Koç 2005, Khanjani et al. 2010, Dönel and Dogan 2011), among them two species namely C. iranensis Khanjani and Ueckermann 2002 and C. ferdowsi Khanjani et al. 2010 have been described from Iran. In this paper we described the third species, collected from soil in apple orchards from East Azerbaijan province.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Mites were extracted from the soil using a Berlese funnel; specimens were cleared in Nesbitt’s fluid, mounted in Hoefer’s medium (Walter and Krantz 2009) and were examined under 1000x magnification of Olympus Bx40 phase contrast microscope. The length of the idiosoma was measured from the base of chelicerae to the posterior margin of suranal shield, the width of the idiosoma at the broadest part of the idiosoma and setae were measured from their insertions to their tips; distances between setae were measured between their insertions. The terminology and abbreviations are based on Kethley.
FIGURE 1: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Male) – Dorsal view of body.
FIGURE 2: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Male) – Ventral view of body.
(1990). All measurements are given in micrometers (µm). The first measurement is that of the holotype male or allotype female followed by the variation in measurements of the paratype specimens in parentheses including the holotype and allotype.

**STIGMAEIDAE OUDEMANS, 1931**

*Cheylostigmaeus* Willmann, 1951

*Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri* n. sp. Bagheri (Figures 1–11)

**Diagnosis** — Dorsal setae are thick and barbed sparsely in male and female; palpal femur without apophyses; ratios of setae sce : sci = 1.9, ve : sci = 2.6 in female; endopodal shield divided and smooth in both sex; femura I-IV and genua II-IV of male and female each with one sheathed seta; subcapitulum of male with one pair of bicuspidate lamellae; aedeagus without bulb, reversed comma-shape sclerotized appendages present on both sides of shaft distally.

Holotype male (n = 4) — Idiosoma oval, idiosoma length 292 (285–300); idiosoma width 214 (210–217); length of leg I 330 (325–331); leg II 280 (275–285); leg III 230 (265–270); leg IV 271 (267–274).

**Dorsum** — (Figure 1): Dorsum covered with three weakly sclerotized and smooth shields; no obvious dimples or micro-punctations observed; prodorsal shield truncated anteriorly, triangular and bearing four pairs of setae (vi, ve, sci and sce) and a pair of eyes; setae ve are the longest and setae sci the shortest; opisthosomal shield with six pairs of setae (c1, d1, d2, e1, e2 and f1) and suranal shield with two pairs of setae (h1 and h2); h2 two times longer than h1; most of dorsal setae fairly rigid, sparsely barbed and hyaline sheaths cover their tips; humeral shield bearing setae c2 situated ventro-laterally. Length of setae : vi 28 (26–30); ve 67 (65–73); sci 19 (18–21); sce 49 (46–51); c1 34 (33–35); c2 52 (50–55); d1 34 (34–35); d2 40 (39–41); e1 33 (32–35); e2 42 (40–45); f1 65 (62–68); h1 23 (22–25); h2 41 (40–45); distances between dorsal setae: vi–vi 32 (30–35); ve–ve 72 (70–75); vi–ve 41 (39–43); ve–sci 22 (20–24); sce–sce 126 (125–130); c1–d1 55 (53–57); c1–d2 53 (50–55); d1–d1 93 (93–95); d1–d2 39 (37–42); d1–e1 50 (47–52); d1–e2 31 (30–33); d2–e2 52 (50–54); e1–e1 69 (67–71); e1–e2 35 (33–38); e1–f1 25 (23–27); f1–f1 63 (60–65); h1–h1 31 (30–33); h1–h2 11 (10–12); h2–h2 60 (57–63).

**Venter** — (Figure 2): Coxae I-II and III-IV surrounded by smooth and divided endopodal shields; length of setae 1a 23 (21–25), 3a 22 (20–25), and 4a 20 (20–22); anogenital shield with three pairs of subequal aggenital setae (ag1-ag3) and three pairs of pseudanal (ps1-ps3) setae on tubercles; measurements of setae : ag1 16 (15–17); ag2 16 (15–18); ag3 20 (19–22); ps1 11 (11–12); ps2 12 (12–13); ps3 15 (14–15).

**Gnathosoma** — Chelicerae finely punctated, fixed digit 80 and moveable digit 60; palpi (Figure 5) five-segmented; palptarsus with five tactile setae plus one solenidiom (ω) and one trifid eupathidium distally; palptibia with two setae plus one claw and one spine-like accessory claw; palpgenu with two dorsal and palpal femur with three setae; palp trochanter without setae. Subcapitulum (Figure 3) finely punctated and with two pairs of subcapitular setae (m and n), m 19 (18–21), n 20 (18–24) and two pairs of adoral setae (or1 and or2), or1 17

![Figure 3: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Male) – Subcapitulum.](image-url)
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or2 19 (17 – 20); subcapitulum bears a pair of strongly developed wing-like lamellae and one pair of acute teeth in front of lamellae, each lamellae thick and bicuspidate in front.

Figure 4: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Male) – Aedeagus.

Aedeagus — (Figure 4) Calyx of the aedeagus funnel-shaped, shaft straight and pointed distally, no obvious bulb; reversed comma-shaped sclerotized appendages present on both sides of shaft distally.

Figure 5: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Male) – Palp.

Legs — (Figures 6): Counts of setae (excluding solenidia; solenidia in parentheses) on legs I-IV: coxae 2-2-2-2; trochanter 1-1-2; femora 6-5-3-2; genua 4-3+κ-1-1; tibiae 5(+1ϕ+1ϕp)-5(+1ϕp)-5(+1ϕp)-5(+1ϕp); tarsi 13(+2ω)-9(+2ω)-7(+2ω)-7(+2ω); dorsal setae are rigid and sparsely barbed; femora I-IV and genua II-IV each with one distinct sheathed seta; lengths of solenidia: Lω1 29 (28 – 30), Lω2 42 (40 – 44); IIω1 20 (20 – 21); Iω2 50 (48 – 52); IIIω1 9 (8 – 10); IIIω2 41 (40 – 44); IVω1 6 (5 – 8); IVω2 37 (35 – 40); Iϕ 11 (10 – 12); ϕp 21 (20 – 22); IIϕ 19 (19 – 21); IIIϕ 21 (20 – 23); IVϕ 19 (18 – 20).

Female (n = 5) — Idiosoma oval, idiosoma length: 350 (340 – 365); idiosoma width 280 (270 – 292); length of leg I 360 (350 – 370); leg II 300 (294 – 305); leg III 265 (260 – 270); leg IV 320 (312 – 325).

Dorsum — (Figure 7): Dorsum covered with two shields, the shields weakly sclerotized; no obvious dimples or micro-punctations; suranal shield is displaced to ventral position; prodorsal shield with four pairs (vi, ve, sci and sce) of setae and a pair of eyes, setae ve are the longest and setae sci the shortest; opisthosomal shield with six pairs of setae (c1, d1, d2, e1, e2 and f1); suranal shield with two pairs of setae (lt1 and lt2); dorsal setae fairly

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rigid, sparsely barbed and hyaline sheaths cover their tips; humeral shields bearing setae c2 situated ventro-laterally. Length of setae: vi 50 (48 – 50); ve 90 (85 – 90); sci 35 (33 – 36); sce 65 (62 – 67); c1 50 (50 – 51); c2 70 (70 – 75); d1 50 (49 – 50); d2 60 (54 – 60); e1 55 (55 – 60); e2 60 (57 – 63); f1 80 (72 – 81); h1 55 (50 – 55); h2 50 (48 – 50); distances between dorsal setae: vi–vi 40 (37 – 41); ve–ve 95 (92 – 98); vi–ve 65 (64–66); ve–sci 35 (33 – 35); sci–sci 150 (145 – 152); sci–sce 30 (27 – 32); sce–sce 180 (176 – 182); c1–c1 120 (118 – 125); c1–d1 76 (75 – 77); c1–d2 60 (59 – 63); d1–d1 115 (111 – 116); d1–d2 65 (62 – 67); d1–e1 80 (79 – 82); d1–e2 55 (53 – 55); d2–e2 80 (77 – 81); e1–e1 95 (92 – 96); c1–e2 55 (55 – 57); c1–f1 60 (60 – 63); f1–f1 75 (74 – 77); h1–h1 30 (30 – 34); h1–h2 20 (19 – 22); h2–h2 50 (49 – 53); setal ratios: vi : vi–vi 1.25; c1 : c1–c1 0.42; d1 : d1–d1 0.43; e1 : e1–e1 0.58; f1 : f1–f1 1.06; h1 : h1–h1 1.83; h2 : h2–h2 1; c1–c1 : d1–d1 : e1–e1 : f1–f1 1.60: 1.53: 1.27: 1.00.

Venter — (Figure 8): Ventral cuticle striated; coxae I-II and III-IV surrounded by smooth and divided endopodal shields; length of setae 1a 30 (28 – 30), 3a 30 (28 – 31), and 4a 32 (30 – 32); anogenital shield with three pairs of subequal aggenital setae (ag1-ag3) and three pairs of pseudanal (ps1-ps3) setae; measurements of setae: ag1 15 (15 – 21); ag2 20 (18 – 21); ag3 20 (19 – 22); ps1 20 (19 – 20); ps2 20 (19 – 21); ps3 22 (19 – 22).

Gnathosoma — Chelicerae finely punctated, fixed digit 80 and moveable digit 60; palpi (Figure 9) five-segmented; palptarsus with five tactile setae plus one solenidion (ω) and one trifid eupathidium distally; palptibia with two setae plus one claw and one spine-like accessory claw; palpgenu with two setae and palpfemur with three setae; palptrochanter without setae. Subcapitulum (Figure 10) finely punctated and with two pairs of subcapitular setae (m and n), m 35 (33 – 36), n 25 (25 – 27) and two pairs of adoral setae (or1 and or2), or1 17 (15 – 17), or2 30 (27 – 31).

Legs — (Figures 11): Counts of setae (excluding solenidia; solenidia in parentheses) on legs I-IV: coxae 2-2-2-2; trochanters 1-1-2-1; femora 6-5-3-2; genua 4-3+κ-1-1; tibiae 5(+1φ+1φφ)-5(+1φφ)-5(+1φφ)-5(1φφ); tarsi 13(+1ω)-9(+1ω)-7(+1ω)-7(+1ω); dorsal setae are rigid and sparsely barbed;
FIGURE 7: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Female) – Dorsal view of body.
FIGURE 8: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Female) – Ventral view of body.
femora I-IV and genua II-IV each with one distinct sheathed seta; lengths of solenidia: \( I_ω 27 (25 – 27) \), \( II_ω 19 (18 – 20) \), \( III_ω 10 (10 – 11) \), \( IV_ω 4 (4 – 5) \), \( I_ϕ 12 (12 – 13) \), \( I_ϕ 12 (25 – 25) \), \( II_ϕ 20 (18 – 20) \), \( III_ϕ 17 (16 – 17) \), \( IV_ϕ 20 (18 – 21) \).

**Figure 9:** Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Female) – Palp.

Etymology — This species is named in honor of Dr. Mehdi Hassanpour, University of Mohaghegh Ardabili who is the friend of the first author.

Material examined — Holotype male, allotype female, paratype males (3) and paratype females (n= 4) were collected from soil in apple orchards, 20 August 2009, Marand, East Azerbaijan province, Iran, by Reza Navaei-Bonab. The holotype and one paratype female are deposited in the Arachnida Collection of Plant Protection Research Institute, Pretoria, South Africa and the rest of the paratypes are deposited in the Acarological Collection, Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maragheh, Maragheh, Iran.

**Remarks** — The new species is unique in having the following characters:

1. setae sci are the smallest dorsal setae and 1/3 length of \( ve \), the longest setae,

2. shape of the male aedeagus.

The new species closely resembles *Cheylostigmaeus luxtoni* Wood (Wood, 1968) by having one pair of bicuspidate lamellae on subcapitulum and absence of bulb on aedeagus but differs from the latter by:

1. the length of setae sci 18 – 21 in new species vs 34 – 49 in *C. luxtoni*,

2. the distance \( vi-vi \) in the new species (30 – 35) is about the half (59 – 69) than in *C. luxtoni*,

3. shape of copulatory appendages of aedeagus in the two species distinctively differ.

*Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp.* is also close to *C. pannonicus* Willmann (Summers and Ehara, 1965) by the following characters: femur of palpus without apophyse and having one pair of bicuspidate lamellae on subcapitulum. But it differs from this latter species by:
FIGURE 11: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Female): A – Leg I, femur-tarsus; B – Leg II, femur-tarsus; C – Leg III, femur-tarsus; D – Leg IV, femur-tarsus.

1. aedeagus of C. pannonicus has a capacious bulb which is absent in the new species, additionally the copulatory appendages have different shapes in the two species,

2. ratio \( ve : sci = 2.6 \) in female of the new species vs 1.3 in those of C. pannonicus.

The new species also resembles to Cheylostigmaeus urhani Đonel, G. and Dogan as in both species the setae \( sci \) are the smallest prodorsal setae and there is a bicuspidate lamella on subcapitulum.

However these species could be differentiated by the following characters:

1. in all specimens of the new species apophyses on the palp femur are absent whereas C. urhani has apophyses on the palp femur,

2. ratio of \( sce : sci = 1.9 \) [\( sce 65 (62 – 67), sci 35 (33 – 36) \)] in female of the new species vs 1.4 [\( sce 110 (105 – 125), sci 77 (65 – 97) \)] in C. urhani,

3. there is not obvious bulb on aedeagus of the new species vs capacious bulb in C. urhani,

4. endopodal shield of the new species is smooth vs reticulated in C. urhani.

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