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

Mohammad BAGHERI1, Reza NAVAEI-BONAB4, Edward A. UECKERMANN2,3, Hamed GHORBANI1,5

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1 Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Maragheh, Maragheh, Iran. mbagheri20022002@yahoo.com; mobagheri2012@gmail.com; reza_kami2005@yahoo.com; hg.ghorbani@gmail.com
2 ARC-PPRI, Private Bagx134, Queenswood, Pretoria 0121, South Africa UeckermannE@arc.agric.za
3 School of Environmental Sciences and Development, North-West University, Potchefstroom Campus 2520, South Africa
4 Young Researchers Club, Islamic Azad University, Marand Branch, Marand, Iran
5 Young Researchers Club, Islamic Azad University, Maragheh Branch, Maragheh, Iran

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, Dünel and Dogan 2011), among them two species namely C. iranensis Khanjani and Ueckermann 2002 and C. ferdousi 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 Hoyer’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: Chelostigmaeus 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; palp femur without apophyses; ratios of setae sce : sci = 1.9 , ve : sci = 2.6 in female; endopodal shield divided and smooth in both sex; femur 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 and bearing four pairs of setae (or1, or2, c1, c2) and two pairs of adoral setae (m, n) situated 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).

**Venter** — (Figure 2): Coxae I-II and III-IV surmounted 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 : ve 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).

**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 female each with one sheathed seta; subcapitulum of male with one pair of bicuspidate lamellae; aedeagus without bulb, reversed comma-shape and bearing four pairs of setae (or1, or2, c1, c2) and two pairs of adoral setae (m, n) situated on tubercles; measurements of setae : 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: ve-ve 72 (70 – 75); ve-ve 41 (39 – 43); ve-sce 22 (20 – 24); sci-sci 108 (106 – 110); sce-sce 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).

**Gnathosoma** — Chelicerae finely punctated, fixed digit 80 and moveable digit 60; palpi (Figure 5) five-segmented; palptarsus with five tactile setae plus one solenidion (ω) and one trifid eupathidium distally; palp femur with two setae plus one claw and one spine-like accessory claw; palp femur with two dorsal and palp 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
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.

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.

Legs — (Figures 6): Counts of setae (excluding solenidia; solenidia in parentheses) on legs I-IV: coxae 2-2-2-2; trochanter 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(+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: $L_1 29$ (28 – 30), $L_2 42$ (40 – 44); $L_3 20$ (20 – 21); $L_4 50$ (48 – 52); $III_1 9$ (8 – 10); $III_2 41$ (40 – 44); $IV_1 6$ (5 – 8); $IV_2 37$ (35 – 40); $I_1 11$ (10 – 12); $ϕ 21$ (20 – 22); $I_1 19$ (19 – 21); $III_1 21$ (20 – 23); $IV_1 19$ (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 ($ht I$ and $h2$); dorsal setae fairly
Figure 6: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Male): A – Leg I, femur-tarsus; B – Leg II, femur-tarsus; C – Leg III, femur-tarsus; D – Leg IV, femur-tarsus

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); c2 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); d2-e2 55 (53 – 55); d2-e2 80 (77 – 81); c1-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; palpenu with two setae and palpfemur with three setae; palp-trochanter 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 20 (27 – 31).

Legs — (Figures 11): Counts of setae (excluding solenidia; solenidia in parentheses) on legs I-IV: coxae 2-2-2-2; trochanter 1-1-2-1; femora 6-5-3-2; genua 4-3+κ-1-1; tibiae 5+(1ω)+1(φp)-5+(1ω)+1(φp)-5+(1ω)+1(φp); 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 hassanpourii* n. sp. (Female) – Ventral view of body.
femora I-IV and genua II-IV each with one distinct sheathed seta; lengths of solenidia: Iω 27 (25 – 27), IIω 19 (18 – 20); IIIω 10 (10 – 11); IVω 4 (4 – 5); Iϕ 12 (12 – 13); Iϕp 25 (23 – 25); IIϕp 20 (18 – 20); IIIϕp 17 (16 – 17); IVϕp 20(18 – 21).

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

Figure 10: Cheylostigmaeus hassanpouri n. sp. (Female) – Subcapitulum.
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* Dönel, G. and Dogan as in both species the setae *sci* are the smallest prodorsal setae and there is a bicuspidate lamellae on subcapitellum.

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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