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## Correspondence

### Re-description of *Amblyseius pseudaequipilus* Wainstein & Abbasova (Acari: Mesostigmata: Phytoseiidae) based on material collected from Iran

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According to the database of Demite *et al.* (2021), about 90 valid species of Phytoseiidae have been recorded for the fauna of Iran. Here, we present a new report on *Amblyseius pseudaequipilus* Wainstein & Abbasova (1974) collected from decayed wood material in Zanjan Province, northwest of Iran. *Amblyseius pseudaequipilus*' original description was adequate for identification purposes. However, due to a mistake in adenotaxy, we decided to re-describe the species accompanied by detailed illustrations and a complete set of measurements.

The mite was collected by direct removal from decayed wood material under a stereomicroscope. The phytoseiid specimen was cleared in lactophenol and mounted in Hoyer's medium. Drawings were made with the aid of a camera lucida (drawing tube) attached to an Olympus phase contrast microscope. The notations used for dorsal and ventral setations follow those of Lindquist and Evans (1965) as adapted by Rowell *et al.* (1978), and Chant and Yoshida-Shaul (1991), respectively. The notation for gland pores (solenostomes) or lyrifissures (poroids) is according to Athias-Henriot (1975). All measurements are given in micrometers ( $\mu\text{m}$ ). The classification systems follow those of Chant and McMurtry (2007). The voucher specimen is deposited in the Acari collection of MITOX Consultants/Eurofins, Amsterdam Science Park.

#### *Amblyseius pseudaequipilus* Wainstein & Abbasova, 1974

*Neoseiulus pseudaequipilus* — Moraes *et al.* (1986).

*Amblyseius pseudoaequipilus* [sic] — Chant and McMurtry (2004); Chant and McMurtry (2007).

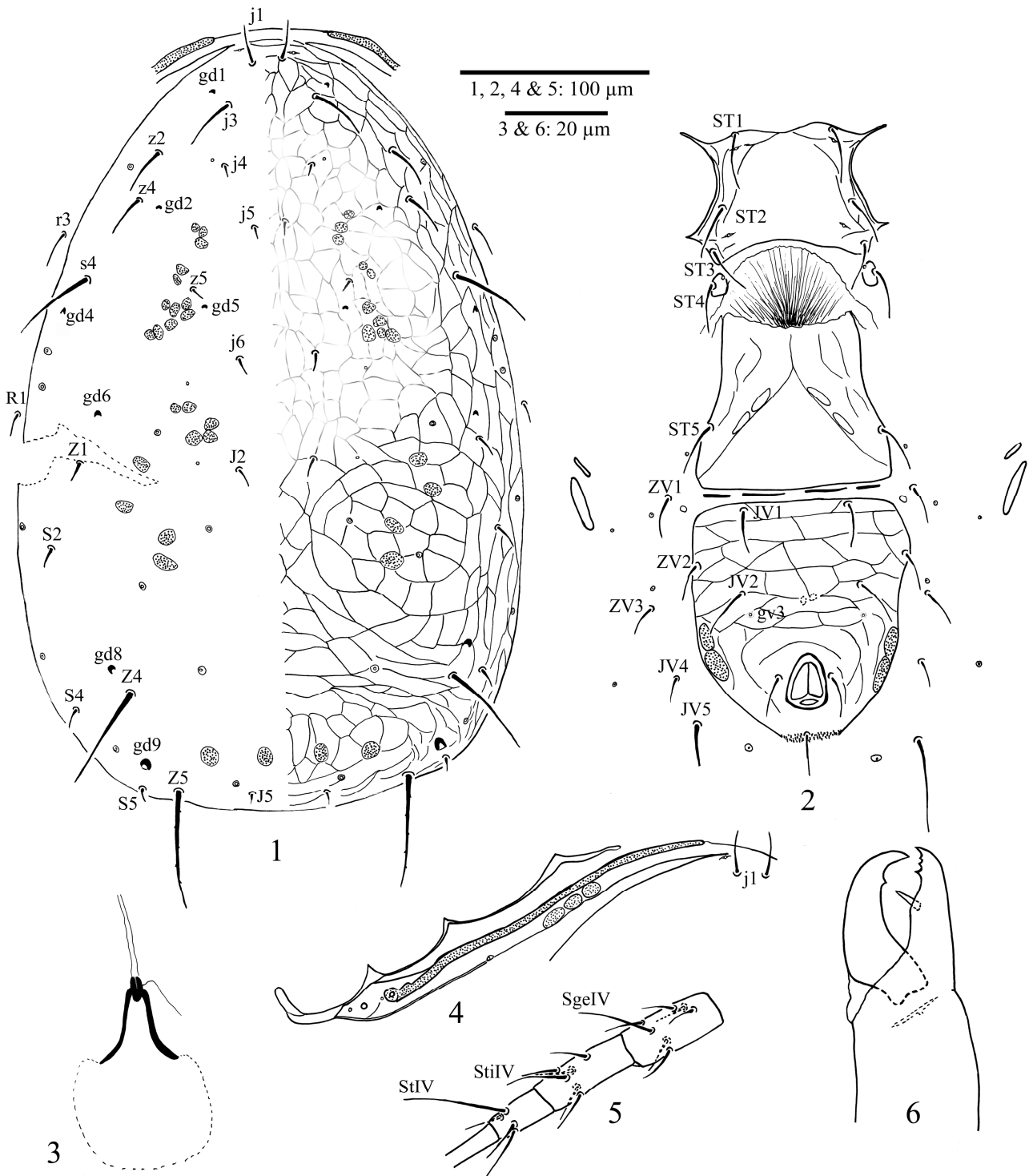
**Female (Figs. 1–6)** – One specimen measured.

Idiosomal setal pattern: 10A:9B/JV–3:ZV.

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**Dorsal idiosoma (Fig. 1)** – Dorsal shield reticulated but faintly at podonotal area between  $j_3$ – $s_4$ – $J_2$  setae, 398 long and 253 wide at  $j_6$  level, with 19 pairs of dorsal setae ( $r_3$  and  $R_1$  included); dorsal shield setae smooth, except for  $Z_5$ , slightly serrated; lengths:  $j_1$  21,  $j_3$  33,  $j_4$ ,  $j_6$ ,  $J_5$  &  $S_4$  9,  $j_5$  &  $z_5$  7,  $J_2$  11,  $z_2$  26,  $z_4$  26,  $Z_1$  14,  $Z_4$  53,  $Z_5$  59,  $s_4$  44,  $S_2$  15,  $S_5$  11; setae  $r_3$  18 and  $R_1$  14 on lateral integument; dorsal shield with 7 pairs of solenostomes ( $gd_1$ ,  $gd_2$ ,  $gd_4$ ,  $gd_5$ ,  $gd_6$ ,  $gd_8$ ,  $gd_9$ ) and 12 pairs of small poroids.

**Peritreme** – Extending to the level of setae  $j_1$  (Figs. 1, 4).



**Figures 1–6.** *Amblyseius pseudaequipilus* Wainstein & Abbasova (Female) – 1. Idiosoma, dorsal view; 2. Idiosoma, ventral view; 3. Spermatheca; 4. Peritreme, peritremal plate and exopodal plate; 5. Leg IV; 6. Chelicera.

**Ventral idiosoma (Fig. 2)** – Sternal shield wider than long, posterior margin slightly concave, smooth at the central area with a few lateral striae, 58 long, 84 wide at level of setae  $ST_2$ , three pairs of setae and two pairs of pores ( $iv_1$  and  $iv_2$ ),  $ST_1$  and  $ST_2$  33,  $ST_3$  32; distances between  $ST_1$ – $ST_3$  64,  $ST_1$ – $ST_1$  53 and  $ST_2$ – $ST_2$  70; metasternal setae  $ST_4$  31 and a pair of pores ( $iv_3$ ) on small platelets; genital shield smooth width at widest point 103,  $ST_5$  33; two pairs of metapodal shields, primary 31 long and accessory 13 long; ventrianal shield pentagonal and reticulated (Fig. 2), length 130, width at level of setae  $ZV_2$ , 111, and width at level of paranal setae 85; with three pairs of preanal setae ( $JV_1$  and  $JV_2$  26,  $ZV_2$  25); four pairs of setae surrounding ventrianal shield on integument ( $JV_4$  15  $JV_5$  47,  $ZV_1$  25,  $ZV_3$  16), five pairs of pores and one pair of small platelets surrounding ventrianal shield. Ventrianal shield with a pair of small round pores ( $gv_3$ ) posteromesad to  $JV_2$ , distance between these pores 58.

**Spermatheca** – Calyx bell-shaped 16 long, 7 in diameter at the middle part of the calyx; atrium V-shaped positioned half at base of the calyx (Fig. 3).

**Chelicera** – Fixed digit 28 long with 3 teeth and a pilus dentilis, the one close to pilus dentilis slightly larger; movable digit 30 long with one tooth (Fig. 6).

**Legs** – Leg IV (Fig. 5) with three pointed macrosetae, SgeIV 40, StiIV 27, StIV 54; other legs with no noticeable macrosetae; length of legs from the base of coxae to the tip of claws: leg I 437, leg II 315, leg III 325, leg IV 425; chaetotactic formulae of genua and tibiae I–II–III–IV with 10 (2-2/1, 2/1-2) – 8 (2-2/1, 2/0-1) – 7 (1-2/1, 2/0-1) – 7 (1-2/0, 2/1-1) and 10 (2-2/1, 2/1-2) – 7 (1-1/1, 2/1-1) – 7 (1-1/1, 2/1-1) – 6 (1-1/0, 2/1-1) setae respectively.

#### Distribution

Azerbaijan and Iran (this study).

#### Specimen examined

One female, 14 August 2011, decayed wood, Zieya abad, Zanjan, Iran (36° 41' 08.7" N 48° 11' 52.5" E), collector: Mohsen Zare.

#### Remarks

This is the first record of *A. pseudaequipilus* from Iran. The characteristics of the specimen found in Iran fit well with most of those of the described species (Wainstein and Abbasova, 1974). It is strange that setae  $z_4$  are missing from the Figure 2-1 of the original description, whether those setae are detached and only the insertions are depicted or those are solenostome  $gd_2$ . Setae  $z_2$  and  $z_4$  are subequal in our specimen while Wainstein and Abbasova (1974) mentioned  $z_2$  longer than  $z_4$ . There is also a mistake in the original description mentioning 5 pairs of solenostomes on dorsal shield while we detected 7 pairs of solenostomes. The Iranian specimen does show more reticulations on dorsal shield than that mentioned in the original description.

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