

FAUNISTIC STUDY OF RAPHIGNATHOID MITES (Acari: Prostigmata) IN MASHHAD, RAZAVI KHORASAN PROVINCE OF IRAN

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Raphignathoids are associated with a variety of habitats such as pond, streams, plant aerial parts and soil. Although the feeding habits of most species are unknown, predation appears to be the dominant mode. During 2009-2010 a faunistic survey of Raphignathoid mites (Acari: Prostigmata) was conducted in Mashhad region (Razavi Khorasan Province). Different samples taken from soil, trees, crops and weeds transferred to the laboratory and put into the Tullgren apparatus. The extracted mites cleared by lactophenol solution and mounted in Hoyer's medium. In this study six species belonging to 5 genera of 2 families were identified as: Stigmaeidae: *Ledermuelleriopsis zahiri* Khanjani & Ueckermann, *Stigmaeus elongatus* Berlese; Agistemus *industani* Gonzalez; *Eustigmaeus anauniensis* Canestrini;

Raphignathidae: *Raphignathus zhaoi* Hu, Jing & Liang; *R. giselae* Meyer & Ueckermann

Key words: Fauna, Acari, Stigmaeidae, Raphignathidae, Iran.
