

## **Zercon montanus** Willmann, 1943, a new record for the fauna of Turkey (Acari, Zerconidae)

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### **Summary**

*Zercon montanus* is recorded for the first time from Turkey. Its important diagnostic characters are given and illustrated.

### **Introduction**

The zerconid mite fauna of Turkey is still poorly known. Özkan et al. (1994) give a list of the mites (including zerconid mites) of Turkey so far. Since then, in addition to 11 known species, 6 species of zerconid mites have been recorded (Urhan and Ayyıldız, 1994, 1996 a, b).

In the course of study on zerconid mites from Artvin province we found females of *Zercon montanus* Willmann, 1943 (Acari, Zerconidae) which were determined to be a new record for the Turkish fauna. On the basis of drawings made from the collected specimens, its description is revised.

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## Material and Method

The mites in soil and litter samples taken from Artvin province were extracted in the funnel apparatus of Berlese. Then they were fixed and preserved in 75 % ethanol. Morphological terminology follows that used by Sellnick (1958) and Blaszkak (1974). All material has been deposited in the collection of the first author.

## Results

Family: Zerconidae Canestrini, 1891

Genus: *Zercon* C.L. Koch, 1836

Type-species: *Zercon triangularis* C.L. Koch, 1836

*Zercon montanus* Willmann, 1943

(Fig. 1 A-B)

Female: Length of idiosoma (excluding gnathosoma) 580 (565-612)  $\mu\text{m}$ , width 510 (496-527)  $\mu\text{m}$  (n = 41). All setae of the podo- and opisthonotum are smooth. Setae  $I_1$ ,  $I_2$ ,  $Z_1$  and  $Z_2$  are shorter than this rows other setae. Seta  $I_3$  reaches to the base of seta  $I_4$ . Seta  $I_6$  is long and thin. Setae  $I_6$  removed 165  $\mu\text{m}$  from each other. Seta  $Z_3$  reaches to the base of seta  $Z_4$ . Seta  $Z_4$  similar to seta  $I_6$  and does not reach the posterior margin of the opisthonotum. The distance between setae  $Z_5$  and  $I_6$  is 36  $\mu\text{m}$ . Setae  $S_2$  -  $S_4$  similar to seta  $I_6$  and seta  $S_2$  reaches to the margin of opisthonotum. The pore  $Po_3$  lies on the line connecting setae  $Z_4$ - $S_3$ . With four setae on the anterior margin of the ventro-anal shield. Length of and distance between opisthonotal setae as follows:

$S_1$ - 24 87 (82 - 92)	$Z_1$ - 16 (14-17) 75 (68 - 82)	$I_1$ - 120 (10-14) 77 (68 - 88)
$S_2$ - 44 (41 - 48) 82 (75 - 88)	$Z_2$ - 18 (17 - 20) 53 (44 - 58)	$I_2$ - 16 (14 - 20) 61 (54 - 75)
$S_3$ 58 60 (54-65)	$Z_3$ - 58 41 (37 - 44)	$I_3$ - 25 (20-27) 24 (20 - 28)
$S_4$ - 62 (58 - 68)	$Z_4$ - 65 (58 - 68) 86 (75 - 95)	$I_4$ - 25 (24-27) 24 (20 - 28)
	$Z_5$ - 30 (27 - 34)	$I_5$ - 25 (20 - 27) 67 (61 - 72)
		$I_6$ - 67 (61 - 72)

**Material examined:** The beginning of Artvin-Kafkasör stabilized road, 860 m, 20.9.1992, litter and soil from a mixed forest, 1 female. Kafkasör plateau, 1200 m, 15.9.1993, litter and soil from a mixed forest, 29 females, 15 km W of Borçka, 400 m, 27.7.1993, litter and soil underlying *Cestanea sativa* in a mixed forest, 5 females, and moss pads on the land in a mixed forest, 5 females. Rabat village (Şavşat).



1020 m, 15.9.1993, leaf sample from *Malus sylvestris* in a garden, 1 female.

**Distribution:** Austria, Spain and Russia (Athias-Henriot, 1961; Petrova, 1977).

**Discussion:** The dimension of dorsum of idiosoma of *Z. montanus* (as  $\mu\text{m}$ ) has been given as 615/480 by Willmann (1953), 594-615/440-480 Sellnick (1958), 500-546/405-440 Athias-Henriot (1961) and 590-620/440-480 Petrova (1977). Dimension of the specimens found in Turkey is 565-612/496-527  $\mu\text{m}$ . In this respect, Turkish specimens are in the range of the dimension of the specimens known until now. Although seta  $Z_3$  does not reach base of seta  $Z_4$  in the specimens known until now, it reaches to beyond the base of seta  $Z_4$  in our specimens. Turkish material resembles the known specimens in the other features.

## Özet

**Türkiye faunası için yeni bir tür, *Zercon montanus* Willmann, 1943 (Acari, Zerconidae)**

*Zercon montanus* Türkiye faunası için yeni kayıt olarak belirlendi. Önemli ayırt edici özellikleri şekillerle birlikte verildi.

## References

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