

Oral presentation — Biodiversity, faunistics and conservation

First Record of *Loxosceles rufescens* (Dufour, 1820) (Arachnida: Araneae: Sicariidae) from Iran

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Loxosceles rufescens (Dufour 1820), commonly known as the Mediterranean recluse or Mediterranean Fiddle-back spider is recorded from Iran for the first time. Genus *Loxosceles* contains about 100 described species; two of them (including *L. rufescens*) are cosmopolitan. All *Loxosceles* species possess necrotic venom, which is a unique characteristic between spiders. Considering this trait, it is of medical/arachnological importance to determine a specific geographical distribution of these spiders. As a result of direct hand collecting, several specimens of both sexes were collected from parks, houses and apartments. Various stereo-microscopic pictures of male's palpi are included for the definite identification.