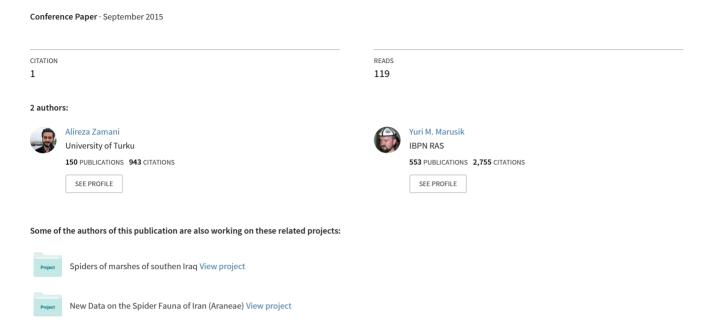
The spider family Filistatidae (Arachnida: Araneae) in Iran



Student - Poster presentation

The spider family Filistatidae (Arachnida: Araneae) in Iran

Alireza Zamani^{1,2} & Yuri M. Marusik^{3,4,5}

¹ Department of Animal Biology, School of Biology and Centre of Excellence in Phylogeny of Living Organisms in Iran, College of Sciences, University of Tehran, Tehran, Iran; ² Pars Plateau Zoologists Group, Iran; ³ Institute for Biological Problems of the North RAS, Magadan, Russia; ⁴ Department of Zoology & Entomology, University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa; ⁵ Far Eastern Federal University, Vladivostok, Russia

Filistatidae is a relatively small, globally-distributed family currently comprised of 119 species placed in 19 genera. Taxonomically, the Filistatidae of Iran has been dealt with in three publications only: the first paper was published by Brignoli (1982), in which he reviewed the Western Palaearctic Filistatidae, recorded the family from Iran for the first time by describing three new species of Zaitunia and recording Filistata insidiatrix (Forskal, 1775). The second paper was published by Marusik & Zonstein (2014), where they synopsized the Middle East Filistata, described a new species from Azerbaijan, and provided taxonomic and faunistic data regarding F. insidiatrix in Iran. The third paper was published by Marusik et al. (2014), in which the genus Sahastata was recorded from Iran for the first time, and a new species was described on the basis of female specimens collected in southern Iran. Also, three faunistic papers have been published which provided some information regarding the distribution of F. insidiatrix in Iran (Ghahari & Marusik 2009; Ghahari & Tabari 2012; Tabrizi et al. 2014) and one recent publication provided the first Iranian record of F. lehtineni Marusik & Zonstein, 2014 (Moradi et al., in press). Our further studies resulted in the finding of three more new species of the genera Filistata, Pritha and Zaitunia, and the undescribed male of S. sinuspersica; according to these data, the number of Iranian filistatid genera and species are raised to four and nine, respectively, which indicates the highest species-richness of this family in the Western Palaearctic, and its highest genera-richness in the Palaearctic.