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The spider family Filistatidae (Arachnida: Araneae) in Iran

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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* (Forsk., 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.