

First record of *Filistata lehtineni* Marusik & Zonstein, 2014 for the fauna of Iran (Araneae: Filistatidae)

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Received: 21. April 2015 / Accepted: 15. June 2015 / Available online: 01. June 2016 / Printed: June 2016

Abstract. *Filistata lehtineni* Marusik & Zonstein, 2014, previously known from Azerbaijan is recorded for the first time from Iran. Zoogeographical remarks and figures of the newly recorded species are presented.

Key words: Araneae, Filistatidae, *Filistata lehtineni*, new record, Iran.

The spider fauna of Iran is still incompletely known. In spite of increased faunistic and taxonomical studies focused on the spiders of Iran during recent years, there are still many regions of country that have not been sufficiently studied. The first detailed list on the spiders of Iran was presented by Mozaffarian & Marusik (2001). In the following years many faunistic studies have been carried out by Ghavami et al. (2007a,b), Ghahari & Marusik (2009), Moradmand & Jäger (2011), Mirshamsi et al. (2013), Zamani (2014a,b). Recently, an updated list with about 540 species has been given by Zamani et al. (2015).

Globally, the family Filistatidae is represented by 18 genera and 119 species. The genus *Filistata* includes 19 accepted species and occurs in the Holarctic region (World Spider Catalog 2015). According to the checklist of Zamani et al. (2015), Filistatidae is represented by a total of five species of three genera in Iran. Until now, the only species of *Filistata* recorded from Iran was *F. insidiatrix* (Forsskål 1775).

The main purpose of this study is to contribute to new data on Iranian spider diversity by a new faunistic record, and provide brief data on the distribution of the recorded species.

The examined sample was collected by the first and third authors by hand during the daytime, and preserved in the collection of the Alaşehir Zoological Museum, Manisa, Turkey (AZMM). The specimen was fixed in 70% ethanol, examined using a Leica EZ4 stereomicroscope and photographed by Zeiss Axiocam ERC5s camera. Identification is according to Marusik & Zonstein (2014).

Family Filistatidae Ausserer, 1867

Genus *Filistata* Latreille, 1810

Filistata lehtineni Marusik & Zonstein, 2014 (Figs. 2-3)

Material examined: 1 ♂, Iran: Zanjan Province, Mahneshan, Chahar Tagh, Zagros Mountain Range, 36°44'40"N, 47°40'21"E, 2215 m, 12.11.2014, leg. Moradi & Gharakhloo.

Description and Diagnosis: See Marusik & Zonstein (2014).

Comments: Considering this record, the genus *Filistata* is represented by two species in Iran: *F. insidiatrix* and *F. lehtineni*. *Filistata insidiatrix* has a wide distribution range and is distributed from Iberian Peninsula through all of the Northern Mediterranean countries to Turkmenistan and Razavi Khorasan Province in Iran, while *F. lehtineni* was previously known from Azerbaijan only (in Gobustan Province and

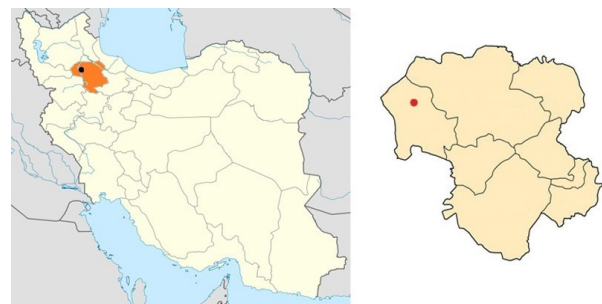


Figure 1. Map of collecting locality of *Filistata lehtineni* in North-western Iran.



Figure 2. Habitus of male *Filistata lehtineni*.

Naxçıvan Region). Our specimen was collected from a locality close to Naxçıvan and represents the southeasternmost record of the species in the whole range (Fig. 1). The morphological features of our sample are similar to the holotype characteristics of the species given by Marusik & Zonstein (2014) and no differences have been examined in palpal structures (Figs. 2, 3). As a result, Iranian filistatid species number is increased to six, including the present record: *Filistata insidiatrix*, *F. lehtineni*, *Sahastata sinuspersica*, *Zaitunia alexandri*, *Z. medica*, *Z. persica*.

Habitat: The specimen was collected from under a stone in a steppe habitat at slopes of Zagros Mountains (Fig. 1).

Global distribution: Azerbaijan (Marusik & Zonstein 2014), Iran (present paper).

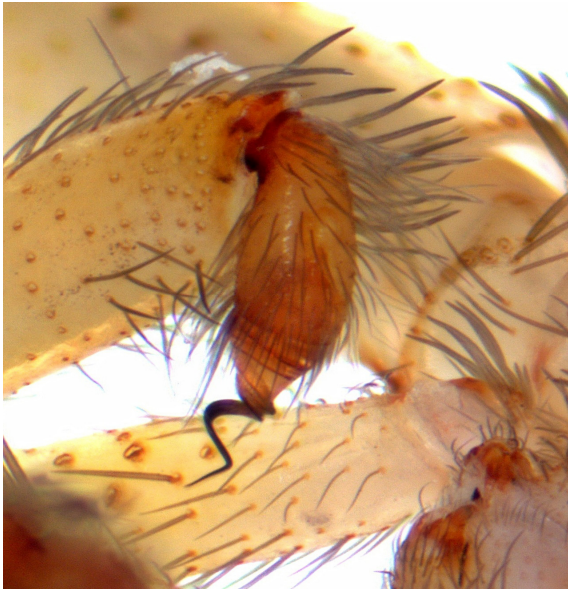


Figure 3. Prolateral view of left male palp of *Filistata lehtineni*.

Including the present new record, 541 spider species are known from Iran. When comparing the Iranian spider fauna with other regions, the neighboring Turkey has 1013 (Bayram et al., 2015) and Azerbaijan has 714 recorded spider species (Otto 2014), it becomes apparent that it is still incompletely inventoried. The actual diversity of Iranian spiders is expected to be much higher considering varied topography, climate, paleogeography and geological history of Iran (Zehzad et al. 2002; Moradmand & Jäger 2011). It is noteworthy that with six species of three genera currently known from Iran (Marusik et al., 2014, Zamani et al. 2015) filistatid fauna of Iran is of interesting diversity comparing to the whole Caucasus (three species, two genera) and the adjacent Turkey (two species, two genera).

Acknowledgment. This research was financially supported by University of Zanjan, Iran.

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