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The first record of family Segestriidae Simon, 1893 (Araneae: Dysderoidea) from Iran

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Abstract

The family Segestriidae Simon, 1893 and the species *Segestria senoculata* (Linnaeus, 1758) are recorded in Iran for the first time, based on a single female specimen.

Keywords: Spiders, Segestriidae, *Segestria senoculata*, new record, Iran.

Introduction

Segestriidae Simon, 1893 is a small family of medium-sized, araneomorph, ecribellate, haplogyne spiders with three tarsal claws which are globally represented by 119 species in three genera (Platnick, 2014). These spiders are six-eyed, and are usually distinguishable by having their third pair of legs directed forwards. From taxonomic point of view, Segestriidae is closely related to Dysderidae, and are considered as a member of the superfamily Dysderoidea. The type genus, *Segestria* Latreille, 1804, is consisted of 18 species and one subspecies which are mostly distributed in the Palaearctic ecozone (Platnick, 2014). One of the more distributed species is *Segestria senoculata* (Linnaeus, 1758). This species, like most segestriids, occupies a wide variety of habitats; they prefer living in holes within walls and barks, or under stones, where they build a tubular retreat, with strong threads of silk radiating from the entrance (Roberts, 1995).

So far, about 500 spider species of more than 38 families have been reported from Iran (based on our upcoming work on the renewed checklist and the history of studies), but no documentation of the family Segestriidae has been reported from Iran (Mozaffarian & Marusik, 2001; Ghavami, 2006; Kashefi *et al.*, 2013).

Material and Methods

One female specimen was collected by hand from under the bark of a fallen tree. The vulvae were removed and immersed in cold KOH for 24hrs, and later examined using a Nikon SMZ-1000 stereo microscope. The specimen is deposited in Jalal Afshar Zoological Museum of University of Tehran (JAZM, curator Dr. Alireza Sabouri).

Taxonomy

Family Segestriidae Simon, 1893

Genus *Segestria* Latreille, 1804

Diagnosis: members of this genus can be diagnosed from those of *Ariadna* Audouin, 1826 and *Gippsicola* Hogg, 1900 by a number of characters: three anterior and two posterior cheliceral teeth; long, narrow, and nearly parallel-sided labium; numerous spines on leg IV and tibiae and metatarsi I and II of females with two ventral rows of spines (Giroti & Brescovit, 2011).

Segestria senoculata (Linnaeus, 1758) (Figs. 1-5)

Aranea senoculata Linnaeus, 1758: 622.

For detailed list of synonymies, see Platnick (2014).

Material examined: 1♀ (JAZM), Iran: *Mazandaran Province*: Sari County, 36°27'N, 53°04'E, March 2014, leg. Zamani (Fig. 1).

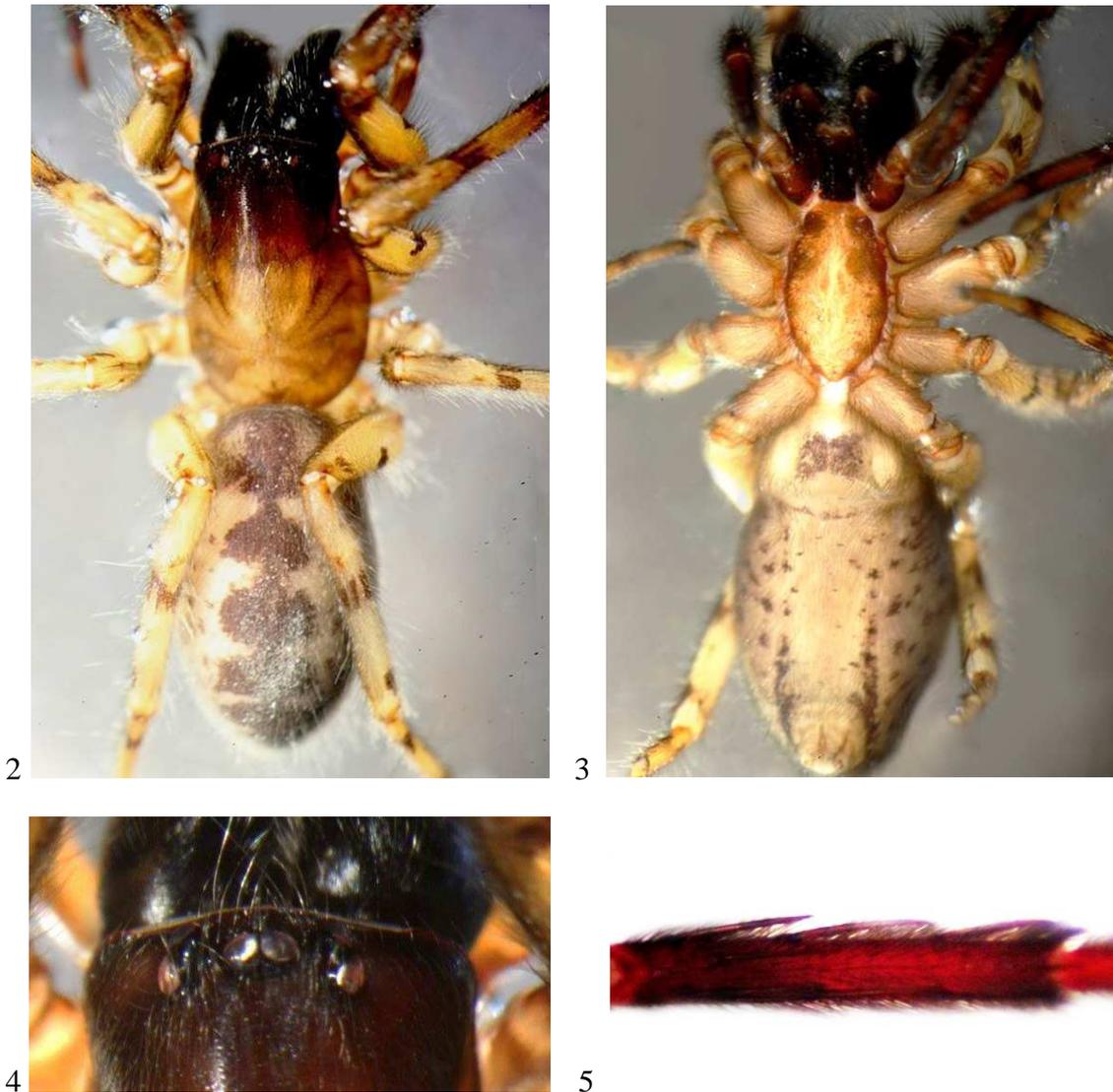


Fig. 1. The collecting site of *Segestria senoculata* (Linnaeus, 1758) in Iran.

Description: Female (Figs. 2-5). Total length 6.6 mm. Prosoma, 3.2 mm long, brownish black, darker in the cephalic region. Chelicerae blackish and long, with teeth on anterior and posterior margins. Sternum and legs light brown. Metatarsus I with three pairs of ventrolateral spines. Opisthosoma, 3.4 mm long, with grey margins and dark brown dorsal lobed pattern in the midline, ventrally without any pattern.

Diagnosis: This species can be diagnosed from its closely related species by the presence of three pairs of ventrolateral spines on metatarsus I (Fig. 5) (Roberts, 1995), their abdominal patterns and the elongation of the bulbal tip in male palps.

Global distribution: Palearctic (Platnick, 2014).



Figs. 2-5. *Segestria senoculata* (Linnaeus, 1758), female. 2. Habitus, dorsal view. 3. Ditto, ventral view. 4. Eyes. 5. Metatarsus I, ventrolateral spines.

Discussion

Considering the wide distribution of this species in the Palearctic, its presence in Iran is not surprising. Actually, two other species which might also be found in Iran are *Segestria florentina* (Rossi, 1790) (Europe to Georgia, and South America) and *S. bavarica* C.L. Koch, 1843 (Europe to Azerbaijan) (Platnick, 2014).

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