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On the *Isometopus* species of Iran (Heteroptera: Miridae, Isometopinae)

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ABSTRACT

Two *Isometopus* species are recorded from Iran. One of them, *Lsepehrii,* is described as new.

1. Introduction

The isometopinae differ from the other Miridae by the precence of the ocelli. From the Palaearctic Region two isolmetopine genera are known: *Isometopus* Fieber, 1860, and *Myiomma* Puton, 1872. The species of *Isometopus* were revised by Wagner (1973) and Wagner & Weber (1964: 561-565). Later on, Josifov (1993) described a new species. *L. Longirostris* Josifov, from Bulgaria. Sarafrazi (1996) has reported the subfamily and Genus Isometopus. In the collections of the College of Agriculture of the Gilan University, Rasht, and the Plant Pests and Diseass Research Institute, Tehran, two species were detected. One of them, *I. sepehrii* from Gilan, is described as new, the other soecies, represented as a single teneral specimen from Saravan, remains unidentified.

The isometopinae live on bark in deciduous trees and shrubs and are apparently predators of Aphids.

2. List of species

Isometopus sepehrii sp. n.

Fig. 1. A-G.

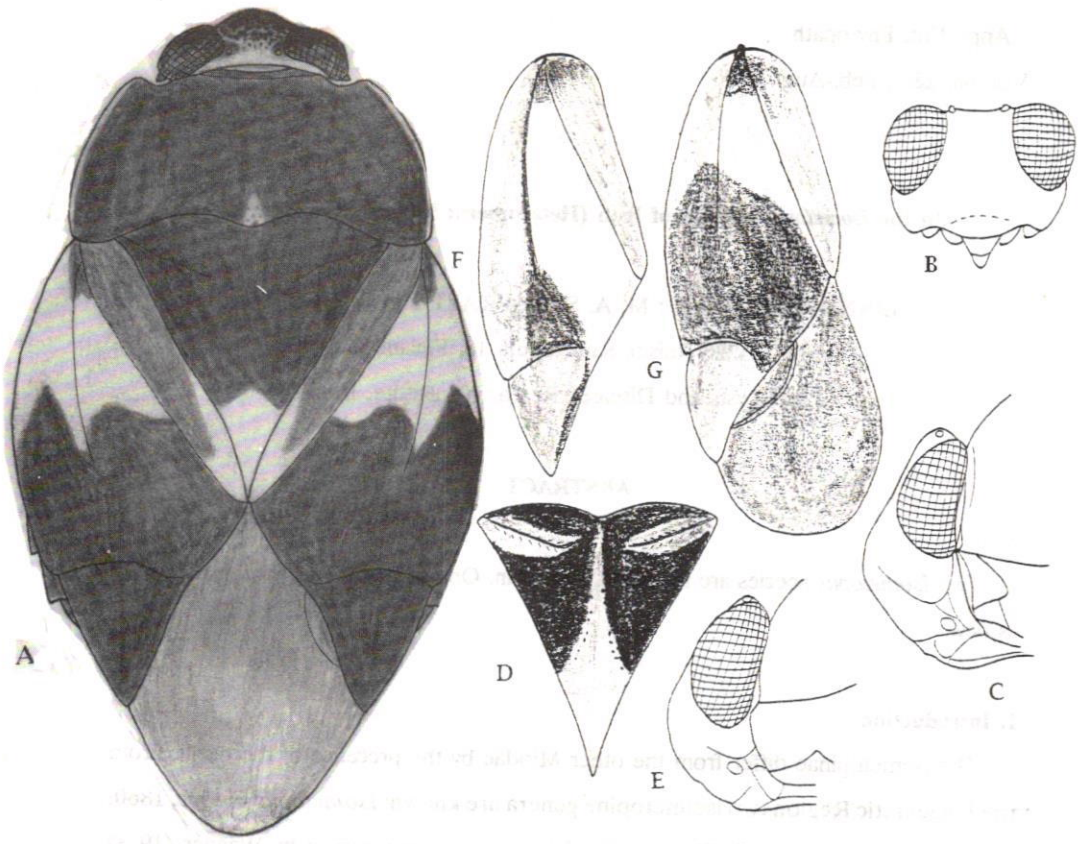

Fig. 1. *Isometopus sepehrii* sp. n. A: dorsal view; B-C: female head in apical and lateral view.- *I. kaznakovi* Kiritshenko. D: scutellum.; *I. mirificus* Mulsant & Rey. E: female head in lateral view.- *I. diversiceps* Linnavuori. F-G: male and female hemelytron.

Type: Gilan, Lowshan, female holotype, 7. VII. 1996, R. Hosseini, in the collection of the College of Agriculture, university of Gilan, Rasht, Iran.

Description: Length 2.5 mm. Shiny. Head below lower corners of eyes black, upper part dark yellowish brown with dense dark puncturing; eyes brown. Ist. antennal segment black, 2nd yellow-brown, other segments missing in the specimen studied. Pronotum black, the very lateral margins and a middle spot on basal margin pale ochraceous. Scutellum black, apex white. Hemelytra (Fig. 1 A) contrastingly bicolored, blackish with a transverse whitish band with faint brown puncturing from claval suture to costal margin, commissural margin and apex of clavus slightly paler; membrane dark brown. Connexivum and under surface of body uniformly black. Femora black with tips pale.

Other parts of legs yellow-brown, bases of tibiae with faint dark ring.

Body ovate, 163× as long as broad in middle of hemelytra. hair covering on upper surface pale and dense. Head in dorsal view 0.54× as broad as basal width of pronotum, in apical view as in Fig. 1B, with weakly prominent genae, in lateral view (Fig. 1C)stronaly convex below eyes; lower part of head finely rugose, upper part densely and finely punctate; ocular index 0.81. Proportions between antennal segments 7:35?, 2nd segment gracile, 0.8×as long as diatone. Rostrum extending to base of abdomen. Pronotum 2.8×as broad as long in middle, convex, sloping laterad, disk densely and relatively finely punctate. The dark portion of scutellum densely and rather finely punctate, basal ridges sharp, concolorous; base of the pale apical portion sparsely concolorously punctate, apex impunctate.

Hemelytra slightly longer than abdomen, clavus densely, corium somewhat more sparsely punctate, puncturing on cuneus obsolete.

Etymology: Dedicated to Sohrab Sepehri, a famous Iranian poet.

Discussion: In most *Isometopus* species *(I. diversiceps* Linnacuori, 1962; (Turkey), *I. heterocephalus* Puton. 1989, (Algeria) *I. intrusus* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1842)(Holomediterranean), *I. longirostris* Josifov, 1993. (Bulgaria), *I. palliceps* Wagner, 1973, (Palestine), *I. guadrifasciatus* Wagner, 1973, (Morocco), *I. taeniaticeps* Puton, 1998, (Palestine) the hemelytra are uniformly brownish or ornamented with obscure brown and pale markings as in Fig. 1. F-G. The rest of the species are characterized by a contrasting whitish and dark brown pattern of the hemelytra. The species of this group are distinguished according to the following key:

1. Head and pronotum black, Pattern of hemelytra as in Fig. 1 A. Connexivum uniformly black. Lower part of head (Fig. 1C) in lateral view strongly protruding *sepehrii*

-- Head and pronotum pale. Pattern of hemelytra as in Fig. 2 H. Connexivum bicolored. Anterior margin of head (Fig. 1E) in lateral view nearly vertical 2

2. Basal keels on pronotum (Fig. 1D) callose, contrastingly pale. Female genae (Fig. 2B)in apical view strongly prominent. 2nd antennal segment (Fig. 2D) longer. Puncturing on upper surface dense. On *Prunus domestica.* Transcaucasia. Georgia *Kaznakovi* Kiritshenko, 1939

-- Basal keels on scutellum weaker, concolorous. Female genae (Fig. 2E) in apical view narrow. 2nd antennal segment (Fig. 2G) shorter. Puncturing on upper surface sparser.

On *Pirus communis*. Holomediterranean, extending from France to southern Russia *mirificus* Mulsant & Rey, 1978.

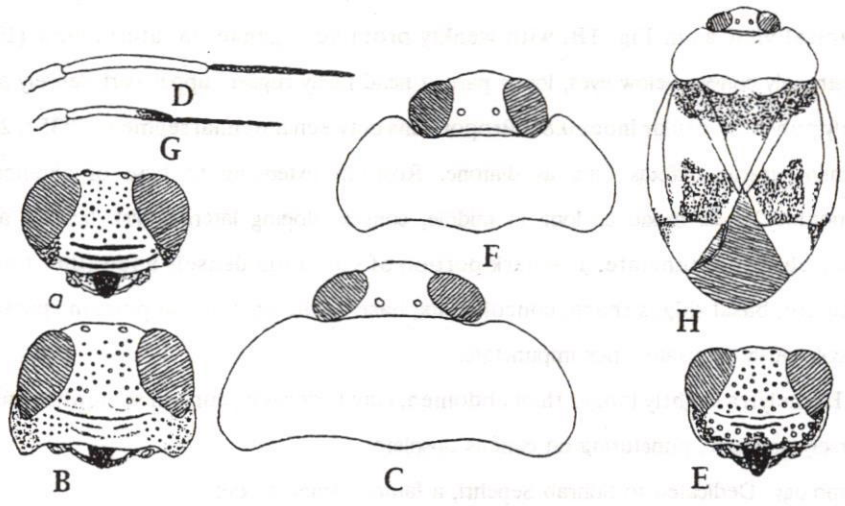

Fig. 2. *Isometopus kaznakovi* Kiritshenko. A--B: male and female head in apical view; C: female head and pronotum: D; female antenna. -- *I. mirificus* Mulsant & Rey. E: female head in apical view; F: female head and pronotum; G: female natenna; H: female in dorsal view. ---- After Wagner 1973.

Isometopus sp. near *palliceps* Wagner, 1963

Material: Iran, Saravan, 1 female, 31.III.1973. Safavi & Boroumand, in the Plant Pests and Diseases Research Institute, Tehran.

The specimen is teneral and a reliable identification is therefore impossible. It is related to *I. palliceps* Wagner, which is found on *Calligonum comosum* in the Negev Desert in southern Palestine.

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