

Short communication

**The first report of *Tapinoma israele* (Hym.: Formicidae: Dolichoderinae) from Iran**

**S. Hosseinneshad**

N0. 30, Shahid Mansoriyan Square, Emam Khomeini St., P.O Box 3357113146, Shahriar, Tehran, Iran.

E-mail: s.hosseinneshad@gmail.com

**چکیده**

طی مطالعه مورچه‌های جنس *Tapinoma* Förster در موزه حشرات هایک میرزایانس، موسسه تحقیقات گیاه‌پزشکی کشور، تهران، که از استان مازندران جمع‌آوری شده بودند، یک گونه با نام علمی *Tapinoma israele* Forel, 1904 شناسایی شد. این گونه تاکنون از ایران گزارش نشده است.

The genus *Tapinoma* Förster, currently comprises 126 described species and subspecies worldwide (Brown, 2000; Bolton *et al.*, 2007), nests in a wide variety of habitats, ranging from grasslands, open fields, woodlands, to indoors. So far, two species of the genus *Tapinoma* namely, *T. erraticum* (Latreille, 1798) and *T. karavaievi* Emery, 1925 have been known from Iran (Paknia *et al.*, 2008). This survey is mainly based on the specimens collected in Mazandaran province of Iran in April 1994, which are being preserved in the Hayk Mirzayans Insect Museum (HMIM), Iranian Research Institute of Plant Protection (IRIPP), Tehran. The province of Mazandaran is situated on the southern coast of the Caspian Sea and northern slope of the Alborz Mountains.

**- *Tapinoma israele* Forel, 1904**

Syn.: *Tapinoma erraticum* r. *israelis* Forel, 1904

*Tapinoma erraticum* subsp. *israelis* Forel, 1904

**Material examined** – 3 ♀♀, Mazandaran province, Noor, Baladeh village, 2050 m., N 36.2°, E 51.8°, 15.IV.1994, leg. Ardeh, Badii & Hashemi.

**Diagnosis** – According to Forel (1904) and Emery (1925), antenna is longer and the depth of clypeal incision is smaller than *T. erraticum*; thorax slender; body sparsely pubescent and slightly punctured; dorsum of alitrunk and appendages of both species without erect hairs; color brown to black.

**Measurements (mm)** – Total length (TL): 3-3.64; maximum head length (HL): 0.79-0.85; maximum head width (HW): 0.7-0.8; scape length (SL): 0.75-0.87; maximum width of pronotum in dorsal view: 0.45-0.55; cephalic index (CI): (HW / HL) × 100: 88.60-94.11; scape index (SI): (SL / HW) × 100: 107.14-108.75.

The identification of the species was made possible by Dr. Seifert (Senckenberg Museum für Naturkunde, Goerlitz, Germany). This species is newly reported for the fauna of Iran. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Insect Taxonomy Research Department of IRIPP for providing the examined materials.

**References**

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