

An annotated catalogue of the Iranian Nabidae (Hemiptera: Heteroptera)

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Abstract. The Iranian fauna of the Nabidae is summarized in this paper. In total, four genera (*Alloeorhynchus* Fieber, 1860, *Himacerus* Wolff, 1811, *Nabis* Latreille, 1802 and *Prostemma* Laporte, 1832), 22 species and subspecies are listed from Iran. Three of these species are new for the Iranian fauna: *Nabis* (*Nabicula*) *flavomarginatus* Scholtz, 1847, *Nabis* (*Nabis*) *rugosus* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Prostemma carduelis* Dohrn, 1858.

Key words. Heteroptera, Nabidae, catalogue, Iran, Palaearctic Region

Introduction

Damsel bugs (Heteroptera: Nabidae) have a worldwide distribution and include approximately 400 species in about 20 genera (KERZHNER 1981, 1996; KERZHNER & HENRY 2008). All known species are predators of adults and larvae of various stages and groups of insects, e.g., aphids, leafhoppers and lepidopteran eggs and young caterpillars. They may be commonly found on low herbaceous vegetation, shrubs and grasses (LATTIN 1989). They have not been used as biological control agents but are considered beneficial in natural biological control.

The classification of the Nabidae is conjectural. STÅL (1873) provided the first useful classification, recognising three tribes: Nabina, Coriscina and Pachynomina. REUTER & POPPIUS (1909) used similar groupings in their world revision. CARAYON (1970) recognised four subfamilies: Medocostinae, Velocipedinae, Nabinae and Prostematinae. This opinion was followed by KERZHNER (1981, 1996). SCHUH & ŠTYS (1991) did not support it and listed the first two subfamilies as separate families. They defined the nabids on the basis of labial and membrane venation characters and the presence of Ekblom's organ. Most recent workers