
“New Data on the Spider Fauna of Iran”: an overview of the results from a decade-long large-scale project

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To expedite arachnological research in Iran, I launched a project in 2014 titled “New Data on the Spider Fauna of Iran.” Initially, the project aimed to publish a large number of faunistic records – 25 new country records on average – within a series of collaborative research articles. Additional data such as descriptions of new species and previously unknown sexes, proposals for taxonomic changes, and records of species from nearby countries were included in later parts of the project. As of 2014, eleven parts of this series have been published within nine journals, and a total of 24 collaborators from 20 institutes and 10 countries have contributed to it. The results have been significant, with seven families, 57 genera, and 273 species recorded in Iran for the first time, along with four species newly recorded from five other countries, and illustrations provided for 141 species. These newly recorded species represent over 26% of the total number of known spider species in Iran. Notably, four records mark the first documentation of their respective species in all of Asia. Moreover, 42 species were excluded from the list of Iranian spiders, and four species were removed from the checklists of seven other countries. Additional results from this series include descriptions of nine species new to science and the previously unknown sexes of three species, proposals for three taxonomic changes – one new synonymy, one new combination, and one resurrection from synonymy – and hundreds of new provincial and distribution records.