

عنوان مقاله:

Mutualistic ants (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) associated with aphids in central and southwestern parts of Iran

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خلاصه مقاله:

Ants consume or store the honeydew which is secreted by aphids or other homopteran insects. Major benefit of ant attendance for aphids is protection against natural enemies. A study was carried out during ۲۰۰۹-۲۰۱۰, to determine the mutualistic association between ants and aphids on different host plants in some parts of Khuzestan and Esfahan provinces. A total of ۲۰ ant species belonging to ۱۲ genera and ۳ subfamilies were collected and identified. Among them, four species are new to Iranian ant fauna as follows: *Monomorium libanicum* Tohme; *Monomorium qarahe* Collingwood & Agosti; *Monomorium mayri* Forel and *Lasius paralienus* Seifert. The collected myrmecophilous aphids were ۳۳ species belonging to ۳ families and ۵ subfamilies. Details and mechanisms of such associations between ants and aphids are unknown to us. More detailed investigations are needed in each case to adequately understand them.

کلمات کلیدی:

Iran, Khuzestan, mutualism, ant, Aphid, Esfahan

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