2021 Report

IUCN SSC Mite Specialist Group

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RED LIST AUTHORITY COORDINATOR
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NUMBER OF MEMBERS
72

Mission statement

The mission of the Mite Specialist Group (MSG) is to increase knowledge of the taxonomic, ecological and conservation status of mites and to promote their conservation and protect their habitats globally.

Projected impact 2021–2025

Increased profile and action in mite conservation in association with all invertebrates.

Targets 2021–2025

ASSESS

T-001 Conduct global Red List assessment of 10 species.

NETWORK

T-002 Have two Red List assessment coordinators.

T-003 Grow membership to 100 members.

T-004 Maintain regular contact with the Wet Tropics Management Authority.

T-005 Establish a partnership with Saving Nature to restore habitat in a tropical environment.

T-006 Educate the public about the importance of invertebrate communities.

T-007 Contact five new organisations outside the SSC to seek their cooperation in pursuing specific conservation and/or educational outcomes.

T-008 Request that the five advisory groups develop and implement at least one programme that generates specific education and/or conservation outcomes.

T-009 Gain a second conservation organisation as an advisory group and project partner.

COMMUNICATE

T-010 Deliver ten presentations on Mite Specialist Group activities.

T-011 Establish social media accounts.

T-012 Produce four publications on threatened species of mites.

T-013 Continue to provide advice to MarineBio.

Activities and results 2021

ASSESS

Red List

T-001 (KSR 6)

Number of new global Red List assessments completed: 0

Result description: We compiled a list of 100 threatened host-specific species, including ticks, and then selected five species for Red List assessment.

NETWORK

Capacity building

T-002 (KSR 2)

Number of people trained in assessment tools: 1

Result description: One person was trained as a Red List assessment coordinator.

Membership

T-003 (KSR 1)

Number of SSC members recruited: 65

Result description: We recruited 65 members in 37 countries on all continents.

Synergy

T-004 (KSR 1)

Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 1

Result description: We contacted the Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA) (https://www.wettropics.gov.au/) in Australia about working with them to promote and protect mite and other invertebrate diversity and act in an advisory capacity.

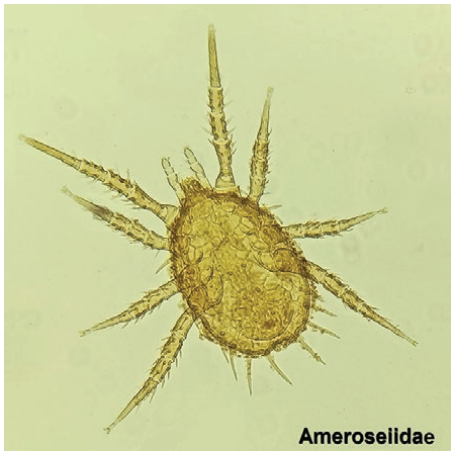
T-005 (KSR 1)

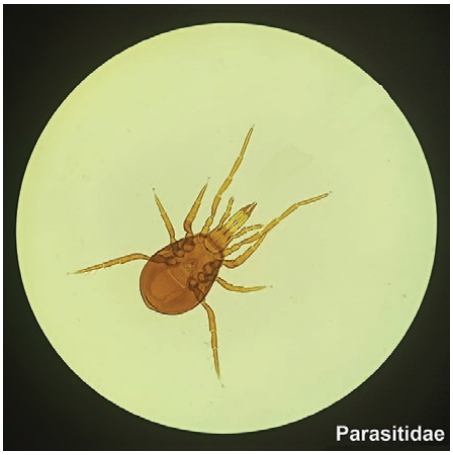
Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 1

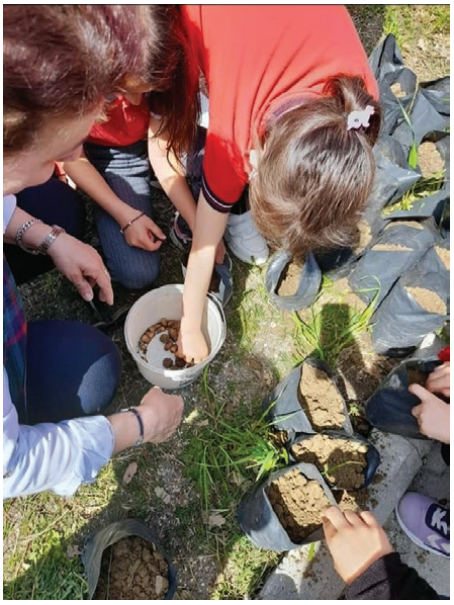
Result description: We contacted the Chair of the conservation charity Saving Nature (https://savingnature.com/our-board-of-directors/) who agreed to be a member of the group.

T-006 (KSR 2)

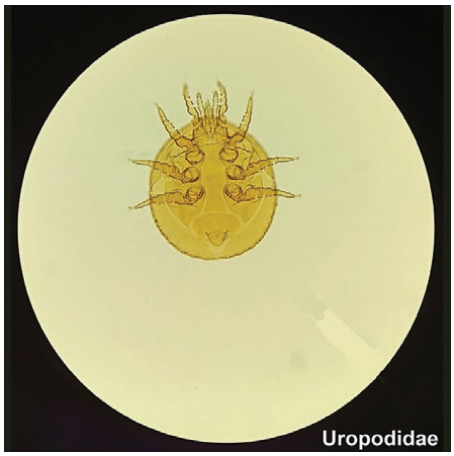
Member institutional affiliation distribution: 1

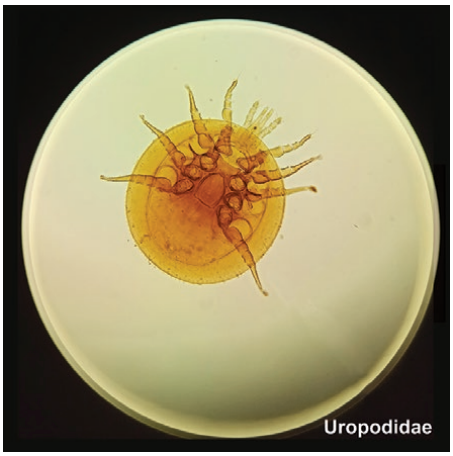






Nature School for Children, Samsun, Turkey
Photo: Merve Kaya





Mites from wild, edible mushrooms, Kastamonu Province, Turkey
Photos: Onur Ozyurek

Result description: We gained a high profile television nature programme presenter in Turkey as a group member.

T-007 (KSR 2)

Member expertise distribution: 1

Result description: We appointed a Conservation Initiatives Coordinator.

T-008 (KSR 1)

Number of in kind partnerships established and maintained: 5

Result description: We gained five acarology societies as advisory groups.

T-009 (KSR 3)

Non-IUCN bodies with which the SSC group collaborates to advance targets: 1

Result description: We gained one conservation organisation as an advisory group (and vice versa).

COMMUNICATE

Communication

T-010 (KSR 13)

Number of SSC members' presentations developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: A nature school programme was delivered in Samsun, Turkey, with a mite education component.

T-011 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: We compiled the information for the MSG landing page on the SSC website (https://iucn.org/our-union/commissions/group/iucn-ssc-mite-specialist-group).

T-012 (KSR 12)

Number of Species e-bulletin, Save Our Species newsletter, SSC Groups' newsletter editions produced: 1

Result description: One paper was published on the establishment of the MSG and mentioning the SSC: Ozman-Sullivan, S.K. and Sullivan, G.T. 2021. The newly formed Mite Specialist Group of the IUCN's Species Survival Commission and the conservation of global mite diversity. *Acarological Studies* 3(2):51–55. https://doi.org/10.47121/acarolstud.973015.

T-013 (KSR 13)

Number of digital communication outputs developed in relation to specific taxonomic groups: 1

Result description: We provided advice to the MarineBio Conservation Society on marine mites and contribution to the website.

Acknowledgements

The MSG would like to thank MarineBio Conservation Society (https://www.marinebio.org/); Anna Walker from the New Mexico BioPark Society (https://www.bioparksociety.org/main/); Sergio Henriques of the Global Center for Species Survival, Indianapolis Zoo; and Axel Hochkirch of the IUCN SSC Invertebrate Conservation Committee.

Summary of achievements

Total number of targets 2021–2025: 13

Geographic regions: 4 Global, 1 America, 6 Asia, 2 Europe

Actions during 2021:

Assess: 1 (KSR 6)
Network: 8 (KSR 1, 2, 3)
Communicate: 4 (KSR 12, 13)

Overall achievement 2021–2025: