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## TAXONOMIC STUDY OF THE SPECIES *PORCELLIO SCABER* (PORCELLIONIDAE : ONICIDEA, ISOPODA, CRUSTACEA) IN BAGHDAD

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**ABSTRACT :** An identification study of species *Porcellio scaber* (Crustacea, Isopoda, Onicidea, Porcellionidae) which collected from Baghdad Al-Risafa, Iraq from September to November- 2018, using a key of the woodlice of Britain and Ireland by Stephen Hopkin, 2012, the animal was photographed using a mobile camera.

**Key words :** Isopoda, *Porcellio scaber*, Onicidae, Crustacea, Porcellionidae.

### INTRODUCTION

The terrestrial isopoda included more than 3700 species (Sfenthourakis and Taiti, 2015) and it is spread all area the world, in Iraq this isopods is poorly known, only 4-6 species were recorded (Montesanto, 2016), one of then *Porcellio scaber* which lives in temperature  $20\pm 2^{\circ}\text{C}$  and photoperiod about 8-16 hr, dark to light (Novak *et al*, 2012) and the aggregation behaviour of this animal is a strong social component (Broly *et al*, 2014). *P. scaber* is a worldwide distribution then (Zidar *et al*, 2004; PipauTalee *et al*, 2016) found that this species used to be a standard animal in taxicology and ecological studies, for different laboratory experiments. So, it is most important species of isopoda such as embryonic develop meat especially *P. scaber* is a synopsis of the development to isopods (Wolff, 2010).

The isopods having an adaptation behaviour in feeding it selective a different food items (Zidar *et al*, 2012), it is saprophagous animals, feeding on leaf of different trees (Droben and Drobne, 2014).

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

The terrestrial specimens were collected by using spatula from Baghdad Al-Rosafa. The specimens were reservation in 72% ethanol (Orchz *et al*, 2012). Then identified depending on external setructer by using dissecting microscope and a mobile camera, then using the references (Stephen, 2012) to classify.

### RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

#### Taxonomy

Kingdom : Animalia

Phylum : Arthropoda

Sub-phylum: Crustcea Brunnich, 1772.

Class : Malacostracha Latreille, 1802.

Order : Isopoda. Latreille, 1802.

Family : Porcellinidae. Brandt, 1831.

*Procellio scaber* Latreille, 1804 (Slabber and Chown, 2002; Europaea, 2013).

#### Description

The species is worldwide and found in Baghdad Al-Rosafa, it lives under dead leaves, woods in greenhouses. Body oval-shape and brown in color with yellowish to orang irregular spots. The upper surface covered with small tubercies, it can not role into aball, 12-13 mm in length (Fig. 1), but Gwynna (1993) was found it grey color, and the length up to 17 mm in Columbus chio.

The caphalotherax twice as wide as long with apair of second antennae having two flagella articles. The eyes is composed with ocelli (Fig. 2). Thorax composed eight segments the first one combine with the head other seven segment having seven pairs of similar legs and epimere at the margin of it. The second one having approximatelystraight posterior margin (Fig. 3), the dorsal surface covered with small bumps (Fig. 4).

The abdomen is short with six segments ending with spare-shape uropods, the telson is pointed tip, the edges of the pleon andpereon is smooth line (Fig. 5) and it was found that the species lives in a large aggregation (Broly *et al*, 2012).



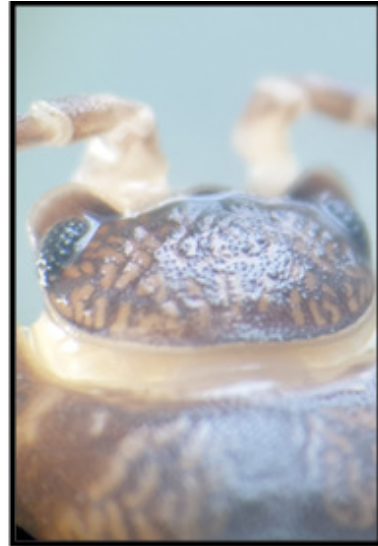
**Fig. 1 :** The whole munt and the length of *Porcellio scaber* in Baghdad, Iraq.



**Fig. 2 :** The cephalorax, antenna and the ocelli of *P. scaber*.



**Fig. 3 :** The posterior margin of the first segment in *P. scaber*.



**Fig. 4 :** The dorsal surface covered with small bumps of *P. scaber*.



**Fig. 5 :** The shape of telson in *P. scaber*.

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