The brine shrimp, *Artemia* (Crustacea, Anostraca) is an organism of great economical importance in the aquaculture industry (Sorgeloos, 1980a; Bengtson et al., 1991; Sorgeloos et al., 1998, 2001). With a wide distribution all over the world and more than 500 reported sites (Abatzopoulos et al., 2002) the brine shrimp stands out as one of the most researched organisms. Mankind has known *Artemia* for many years. For example, Amerindian and Libyan natives have been using *Artemia* as food. Although all scientific manuscripts attribute the first report of *Artemia* to Schlosser in 1755 from Limington, England, the first scientific record belongs to an unknown Iranian author in 982 from Urmia Lake, Iran. “The Limits of The World from The East to The West”, is the first Persian geography book written by an unknown geographer in 982. It was dedicated to one of the Ghurid Kings that they had governed in the North East of ancient Iran.

The unique facsimile of this text was presented to the Russian orientalist Toumansky in 1892 by M. Abolfazl Golpayegani. The copy edition with introduction and index was published by W. Barthold in 1930. A thoroughly commented English translation called “The regions of the world: A Persian geography”, was made by V. Minorsky (1937) and printed by Oxford University. M. Sotude rewrote the Persian text in 1961 which was published by the Tehran University (Iran) (Sotude, 1961).

Persian text:

و دوم دریای کبودان [دریای کبودان = دریای ارومیه] بارمیشنه به ارمیشنه = در (ارومیه) [در(ارومیه) درازه مو پنجاه فرسنگ]

است آندر پنهای سی فرسنگ. اندر میان این دیرا دهیست کبودان کبودان (کبودان نام کیمی از جزایر دریایه ارومیه است) گوید

و این دیرا بدان ده بیان خوانند و از گرد او آبادانیست و اندر او هیج جانور نیست از شوری آش مگر کریم.

English translation:

“...And second lake is Kabuzan [Kabudan Lake or Urmia Lake] from the Urmia. Its length is 50 Parasangs [an ancient unit of length] and its width is 30 Parasangs. There is a village in this lake, called Kabuzan [Kabuzan = Kabudan; an island in the Urmia Lake] and this lake is called with this village. There are cities around that and there are no animals because its water is salty, except a worm.”

The Persian word of ارمینیه had been translated to “Armenia” by V. Minorsky but according to Dehkhoda’s Dictionary, the famous Persian encyclopedia with 16 volumes and more than 23,000 pages, Urmia is correct and there is a pronunciation mistake between “Armenia” and “Urmia” by re-writer and translator (Dehkhoda, 1998).
This book is a geography covering the whole known world and one of the earliest works of Persian prose. It was designed to accompany a map and, though the product of cabinet scholarship rather than original observation, it preserves much material from earlier compositions which are lost and shows originality in its organization.

The unknown Iranian geographer had introduced *Artemia* from Urmia Lake as a “worm” that can live in the lake’s saline water. It is interesting that “brine worm” is one of the popular names of *Artemia* (Sorgeloos, 1980b). Schlösser had described *Artemia* as “unknown insect” (“un insecte peu connu”) in 1755. This first description was not accompanied by a picture (Kuenen & Baas-Becking, 1938). Schlösser’s famous original description was illustrated in July 1756 (Schlösser, 1756). Therefore, the historical record of existence of *Artemia* dates back to 982, more than one thousand years ago, from Urmia Lake, Iran by an unknown geographer and Schlösser was the first person to give drawings of *Artemia* in 1756 (Fig. 1).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks are due to Guido O. Keijl (Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum, Leiden, The Netherlands), for a painstaking job of sending the Kuenen & Baas-Becking (1938) paper. I would like to thank Baharak Sehatnia and Arman Sehatnia for their efforts to find “The Limits of The World from The East to The West” and also Dr. Vassil Karloukovski for the electronic version of “The regions of the world: A Persian geography”. The substantial contribution of Dr. Ilias Kappas with the English text is kindly acknowledged.

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The brine shrimp Artemia is one of the most important aquatic animals used in aquaculture industry. It was first reported from Urmia Lake in 982 by an unknown Iranian geographer (Asem, 2008), and then in 1756 Schösser pictured both sexes clearly. Linnaeus (1758) described it as Cáncer salinus but 61 years later, Leach (1819) transferred it to Artemia salina. The taxonomic status of the genus Artemia is as follows (Martí & Davis, 2001):