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A NEW SPECIES OF _MOLOTHROGNATHUS_ SUMMERS AND SCHLINGER (ACARI: PROSTIGMATA: CALIGONELLIDAE) FROM TURKEY

by Kamil KOÇ* and Nusret AYYILDIZ*

**ABSTRACT:** A new species of _Molothrognathus_, _M. artvinensis_, is described and illustrated from Turkey.

The genus _Molothrognathus_ was described by Summers & Schlinger (1955), with the type species _M. leptostylus_. At present, it is represented by a total of 13 species: 8 species in Africa, 4 species in USA and 1 species in Russia (Sepasgosarian, 1985, 1990). Members of this genus are mostly collected from soil, on bark of citrus trees, oak mulch, bark of almond trees and, in one case (M. minutus Soliman, 1971), the nest of birds (Summers & Schlinger, 1955; Smiley & Moser, 1968; Soliman, 1971; Smith Meyer & Ueckermann, 1989).

Until now, there have been no records of _Molothrognathus_ in Turkey (Özkân et al., 1994). This paper reports the description of a species new to science. Terminology and setal signatures follow Kethley (1990).

**Genus Molothrognathus**
Summers and Schlinger, 1955

_Type species:_ _Molothrognathus leptostylus_ Summers and Schlinger, 1955.

This genus is characterised by the peritremes arising dorsally on the median portion of the stylophore, immediately behind the stylet bases.

**Molothrognathus artvinensis** sp. nov.
(Figs. 1, 2)

**Female**

Dimensions of holotype (followed in parentheses by variations in paratypes): Body (including gnathosoma) 378 (340-420) μm long; greatest width 201 (170-210) μm; dorsum without shield. Integument with coarse dual striae, running longitudinal to anterior of _d_ sub_1_ setae (or two thirds of idiosoma) and transverse posteriorly; 11 pairs of dorsal setae, very short, simple; 3 pairs of cupules; one pair _ia_ adjacent to eyes, one pair _im_ between setae _sei_ and _e_ sub_1_, one pair _ip_ between setae _f_ sub_1_ and _h_ sub_1_; anal covers with 3 pairs of setae (Fig. 1 A, C).

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FIG. 1: Molothrognotus artvinensis sp. nov.; female.
Ventral ornamentation similar to dorsum. Genital covers one pair of setae; aggenital setae 2 pairs, \(ag_{1,2}\) slender and short; one pair of cupules \(\ell h\) laterad of genital opening (Fig. 1 B, D).

Stylophore oval and deeply notched anteriorly; bulbous peritremes arising from the back of stylophore; tibial claw of palpus about 3/4 length of tarsus; palptarsus bears 4 eupathidia, a solenidion and 3 setae; tibia with 3 simple setae and a claw; genu and femur with a simple setae (Fig. 1 E,F).

Legs in two groups. Leg I (from base of coxae to tip of claws) 251 (221-268) \(\mu m\) long; II 195 (190-221) \(\mu m\); III 218 (197-241) \(\mu m\); IV 243 (207-261) \(\mu m\).

Setal counts on all podomeres (solenidia added in parentheses): coxae 3-1-1-1; trochanteres 1-1-1-1; femora 2-2-2-2; genua 5( + 1)-4-2-2; tibiae 5( + 1)-5-4-4; tarsi 13(+ 1)-9(+ 1)-8-8. Solenidion on tibia I more than twice as long as on tarsus I. All tarsi with claws (Fig. 2 A-D).

Material Examined: Holotype female, Turkey, Artvin, Şavşat, Rabat village, 940 m, 15.9.1993, K. Koç and N. Ayyildiz, moss on oak trees (Quercus sp.); 4 paratype females from the same sample, 1 paratype female, Turkey, Artvin, about 25 km W
Etymology: The new species is named after the type locality, Artvin, Turkey.

REMARKS

The new taxon comes closest to *M. parmatus* Smith Meyer and Ueckermann, 1989 in having bulbous peritreme and coarse dual striae. It differs from that species in its dorsum without shield (shield-like area present in *M. parmatus*), anal covers with three pairs of setae (2 pairs in *M. parmatus*); the basal linked nature of the peritreme (unlinked in *M. parmatus*); tibia I bearing a solenidion; genu II with 4 setae (tibia I bears 2 solenidion, 5 setae in *M. parmatus*).

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