

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

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CALIGONELLIDAE
MOLOTHROGNATHUS
TURKEY

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ABSTRACT: A new species of *Molothrognathus*, *M. artvinensis*, is described and illustrated from Turkey.

RÉSUMÉ : Une espèce nouvelle de *Molothrognathus*, *M. artvinensis*, est décrite et illustrée de la Turquie.

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 (SEPASGOŞARIAN, 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 & UECKERMAN, 1989).

Until now, there have been no records of *Molothrognathus* in Turkey (ÖZKAN *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

Molothrognathus SUMMERS & SCHLINGER, 1955: 543; SOLIMAN, 1971: 95; KUZNETZOV, 1978: 54; SMITH MEYER & UECKERMAN, 1989: 23.

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_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 *sce* and *e₁*, one pair (*ip*) between setae *f₁* and *h₁*; anal covers with 3 pairs of setae (Fig. 1 A, C).

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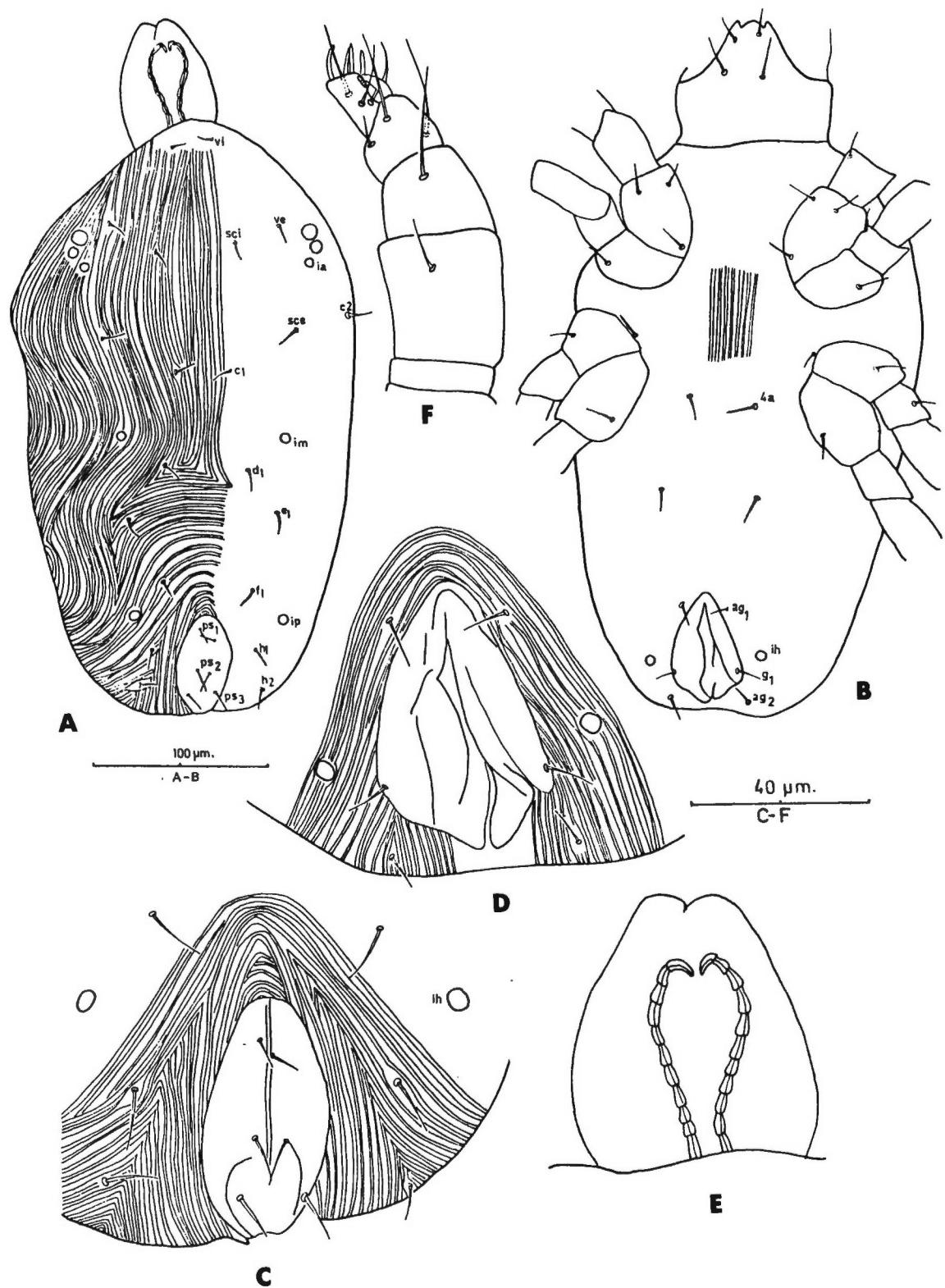


FIG. 1: *Molothrognathus artvinensis* sp. nov.; female.

A. — Dorsal view of idiosoma. B. — Ventral view of idiosoma. C. — Anal covers. D. — Genital area. E. — Stylophore. F. — Palpus.

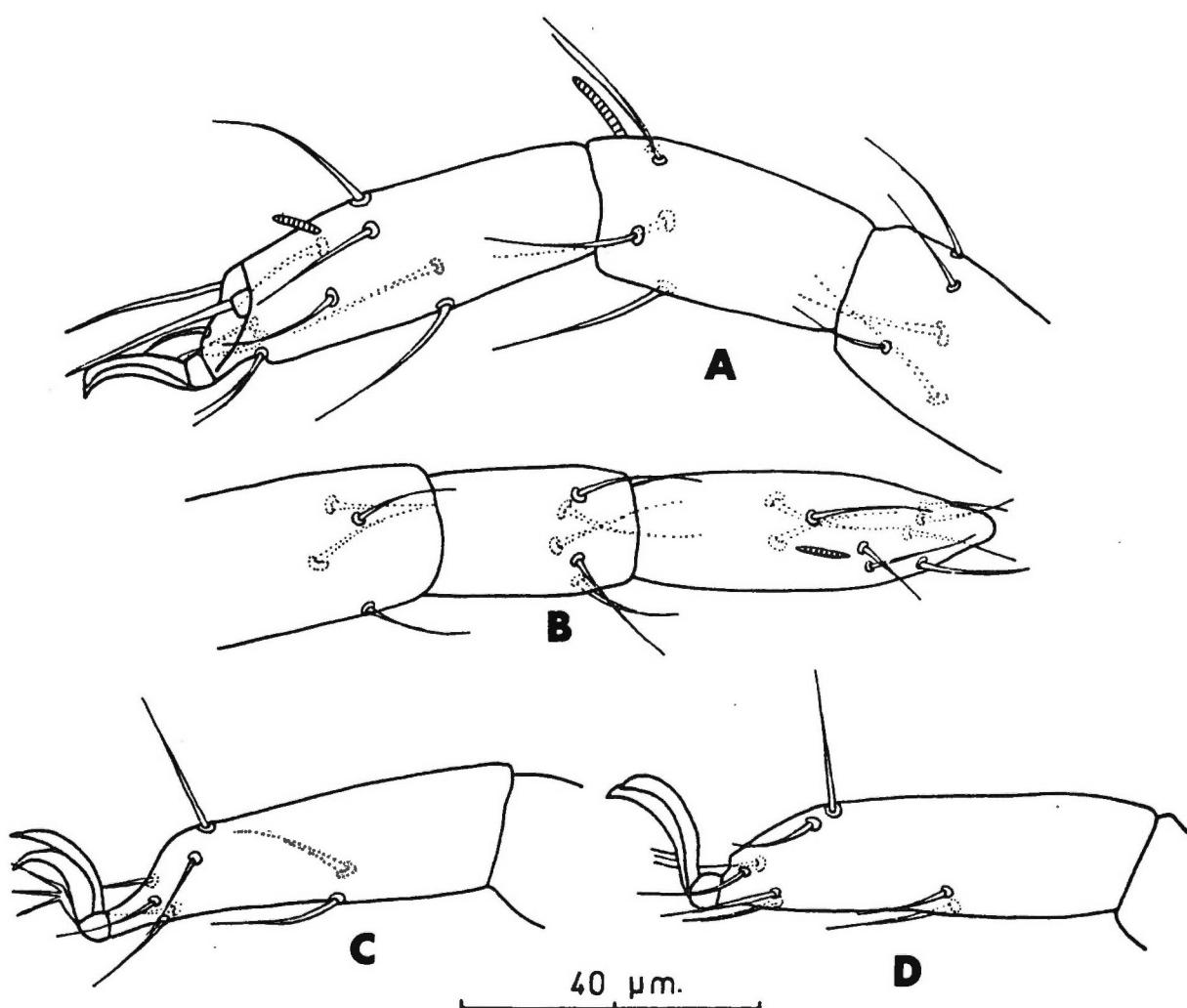


FIG. 2: *Molothrognathus artvinensis* sp. nov.; female

A. — Genu, tibia and tarsus I. B. — Genu, tibia and tarsus II.. C. — Tarsus III. D. — Tarsus IV.

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 (ih) 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; palpatarsus 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) μm long; II 195 (190-

221) μm ; III 218 (197-241) μm ; IV 243 (207-261) μm . 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

Şavşat, 540 m, 15.9.1993, K. Koç and N. AYYILDZ, moss on stone. Type material is deposited in the Zoological Museum of Atatürk University, Erzurum, Turkey.

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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