

A new record of *Storchia ardabiliensis* and variations in the number of genital, aggenital and external clunal setae in two *Storchia* species (Acari: Stigmaeidae) from the Aegean coast, Turkey

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Abstract

This study deals with a new stigmaeid records for the Turkish fauna, *Storchia ardabiliensis* Safasadati, Khanjani, Razmjou & Doğan 2010. The variations in the number of genital, aggenital and external clunal setae of *Storchia ardabiliensis* and *S. robustus* are presented based on the examination of 76 females.

Key words: Acari, Stigmaeidae, *Storchia ardabiliensis*, *S. robustus*, new record, variation, Aegean coast, Turkey

Introduction

The Aegean coast (between Edremit and Gokova Gulf) consists of Mugla, Aydın, İzmir and Balıkesir provinces in Western Turkey. The shores of the Aegean Region present one of the richest landscapes in Turkey. The Aegean coast is adorned with idyllic fishing villages, holiday villages and many ruins of ancient cities. The area enjoys a typical Mediterranean climate with dry, hot rainless summers and mild and wet winters. The vegetation consists of mainly maquis and phrygana communities.

Members of the genus *Storchia* live on or in moss, grass, litter, bark and stored products and were also collected from hair in a barber's shop (Doğan & Ayyıldız 2003). Oudemans (1923) erected *Storchia* based on *Caligonus robustus* Berlese 1885, but did not give a detailed definition for the genus. Grandjean (1944) erected a new genus, *Apostigmaeus*, with *A. navicella* Grandjean 1944, as type species and described this species in detail. This name was widely accepted (Summers 1964, 1966; Wood 1967; Meyer 1969; Vainstein & Kuznetzov 1978; Chaudhri *et al.* 1979; Liang & Hu 1988). Wood (1973) studied the specimens of *Caligonus robustus* in Berlese's collection and compared it with the description of *A. navicella* Grandjean, and concluded that the latter was conspecific with the former. For this reason, *Apostigmaeus* Grandjean became a synonym of *Storchia* Oudemans. Summers (1964) described the second species of this genus, *Apostigmaeus pacificus*, intercepted from Indonesia and the Philippines. Liang and Hu (1988) published two new species: *Apostigmaeus shanghaiensis* and *A. hangzhouensis*. The latter was given as a synonym of the former by Fan & Yan (1997). Fan & Li (1993), Fan & Yan (1997), Fan & Zhang (2005) and Safasadati *et al.* (2010) added four species to this genus, namely *Storchia annae*, *S. cuneata*, *S. hendersonae* and *S. ardabiliensis*, respectively. Thus to date the genus *Storchia* contains seven species.

In this paper, *Storchia ardabiliensis*, a new record for the Turkish fauna, is described and figured and variations in the number of genital, aggenital and external clunal setae in *S. ardabiliensis* and *S. robustus* are given.