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NEW RECORDS

New records of spiders (Araneae: Theridiidae) for the Turkish fauna

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Theridiids are rather common in Turkey; eight genera and 22 species were recorded from Turkey (Bayram, 2002). In this study, ten theridiid species, which were deposited in the HUZOM (Hacettepe University Zoology Museum), are being reported as new records for the Turkish araneofauna. All specimens were collected from central Anatolia in Turkey. To identify all specimens, the keys of Heimer and Nentwig (1991) and Roberts (1995) were used. One female of *Achaearanea lunata* (Clerk 1757) was recorded from Ankara (Kızılcahamam) in July 2003. Description: Female 4 mm. Prosoma and sternum brown, nearly black. Legs yellowish with black marks. Opisthosoma black with white design. Epigyne pit seen clearly, and front edge narrower than its posterior edge. The distribution of *A. lunata* is widespread in Europe and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). Nine females and one male of *Crustulina sticta* (O.P. Cambridge 1861) were recorded from Konya (Ermenek, Hadım, and Ortaköy) in May 2005. Description: Female 2.5–3.5 mm, male 3 mm. Prosoma and sternum dark brown. Legs yellowish. Opisthosoma dark brown with dorsal white design. *C. sticta* is widespread in Europe, North America, and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). One female of *Dipoena braccata* (C.L. Koch 1841) was recorded from Çankırı (Ilgaz) in July 2004. Description: Female 3 mm. Prosoma and sternum black. Legs black, all femora yellowish. Opisthosoma black. Epigyne pit far from epigastral furrow. This species is widespread in Europe and Mediterranean (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Platnick, 2000). One male of *Dipoena erythropus* (Simon 1881) was recorded from Ankara (Nallıhan) in June 2003. Description: Male 2 mm. Prosoma red-brown, and slightly convex. Sternum black. Legs brown. Opisthosoma black. Embolus seen clearly, with very thickened basis. This species is widespread in Europe and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). One female and one male of *Lasaeola tristis* (Hahn 1833) were recorded from Ankara and Niğde in June 2003 and June 2005. Description: Female 3 mm, male 2.5 mm. Prosoma and sternum brown nearly black. Legs brown with black marks. Opisthosoma spherical, brown nearly black. Conductor at the basis broad, membranous. Epigyne pit very close to epigastral furrow. This species is widespread in Europe, Asia, and Tajikistan (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996; Platnick, 2000). One female and five male of *Episinus truncatus* Latreille 1809 were recorded from Ankara (Kazan), Nevşehir (Göreme), Kırşehir (Mucur), Çankırı (Ilgaz), and Kırşehir (Çiçekdağ) in June 2003, July 2004, and July 2005. Description: Female 5 mm, male 4–5 mm. Prosoma blackish, without clear design. Sternum dark brown. Legs I, II red-brown, III, IV yellowish, patella and tibia IV red-brown, metatarsus and tarsus yellowish. Opisthosoma grey. Distal apophyis of the male pedipalpus broad. Front edge of the epigyne simply arc-shaped. This species is widespread in Europe and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). Two females and one male of *Enoplognatha mordax* (Thorell 1875) were recorded from Kayseri (Pınarbaşı), Çankırı (Şabanözü), and Ankara (Bala) in June

2003 and 2005. Description: Female 4–5 mm, male 4.5 mm. Prosoma yellowish with dark design. Sternum brown. Legs yellowish-brown. Opisthosoma ventrally black, laterally light grey, and grey folium, which is limited by black and white marks. Conductor distal with 2 rounded extensions. Epigyne clearly more broad than long. This species is widespread in Europe and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). Two females of *Euryopis quinqueguttata* Thorell 1875 were recorded from Niğde (Ulukışla) in June 2005. Description: Female 2.5–3 mm. Prosoma dark grey-brown with black edge. Sternum black. Legs yellowish with black marks. Opisthosoma grey-black, dorsal with white marks. Epigyne pit clearly two-piece. This species is widespread in central Europe and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). Two females of *Robertus arundineti* (O.P. Cambridge 1871) were recorded from Ankara (Güdül) in May 2003. Description: Female 3–4 mm. Prosoma and sternum red-brown. Legs brown. Opisthosoma yellowish-grey. There is a chitinise sharpened process between epigyne pit and epigastral furrow. This species is widespread in Europe and Asia (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Mikhailov, 1996). One female of *Steatoda nobilis* (Thorell 1875) was recorded from Sivas (Suşehri) in July 2005. Description: Female 6 mm. Prosoma dark brown. Legs yellow-brown, tibia distal dark brown. Opisthosoma brown with whitish strip. Epigyne pit with broad septum. This species is widespread in Canary Islands, Ireland, Portugal, Spain, Corsica, and Madeira (Heimer and Nentwig, 1991; Platnick, 2000).

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Occurrence of *Telescopus nigriceps* (Ahl, 1924) (Reptilia: Ophidia: Colubridae), the black-headed cat snake, in Turkey

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Telescopus nigriceps was first described as *Tarbophis nigriceps* from central Mesopotamia (Ahl, 1924). *Telescopus nigriceps* has been recorded from Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, and Syria (Haas, 1943; Werner, 1988; Leviton et al., 1992; Martens, 1993; Disi et al., 2001). Although Leviton et al. (1992) listed *T. nigriceps* as a subspecies of *T. fallax*, most

scientists have recognized it as a full species (Schmidt, 1939; Haas 1943; Werner, 1988; Disi et al., 2001). It can be distinguished from other closely related taxa by its much lower ventral counts or by its color pattern (Leviton et al., 1992; Martens, 1993). It has never previously been recorded from Turkey (Baran and Atatür, 1998). On 3 May 2002 (temperature 20 ºC) one male specimen of *T. nigriceps* was collected from Ceylanpınar in Şanlıurfa (36º50′29′′N; 40º01′51′′E, elevation 430 m a.s.l.), and deposited in the Zoology Department of Ege University (ZDEU), catalogue no. ZDEU-161/2002–1. Its diagnostic features are as follows: *Pholidosis:* Rostral rather broad; loreal, 1; postoculars, 2; upper labials, 8; lower labials, 11/10 (left/right). Dorsal scale rows between the 90th and the 100th ventral plates, 19; ventral plates, 193. Martens (1993) recorded the number of ventrals as 182 in two Syrian specimens, while Disi et al. (2001) noted that in Jordanian specimens the number varies from 172 to 191 and of subcaudals, from 39 to 58. Annals, 2; subcaudals, paired, 57. *Measurements:* Head large, oval, and clearly distinct from neck. Head length, 10.2 mm; head width, 6.04 mm. Snout–vent length, 367 mm; tail length, 70 mm; ratio of tail length to snout–vent length is 0.19. *Coloration:* Head grey with black and light grey spots. A distinct black crossbar on the neck. Body pale grey with 26 black transverse crossbars, sometimes incomplete, 1–5 scales wide, widely interspersed. Tail pale grey with 8 black crossbars. Tip of tail black. Ventral side black or pale grey. Martens (1993) recorded the number of crossbars on body and tail as 16–17 and 7–8, respectively, while Disi et al. (2001) noted 15–29 on body and 6–11 on tail. Regarding morphometric, meristic, color, and pattern characteristics, our specimen agrees with the description given for *Telescopus nigriceps* by various researchers (Haas, 1943; Leviton et al., 1992; Martens, 1993; Disi et al., 2001). Consequently, this is not only the first report of this species for Turkish herpetofauna, but also suggests an extension of the known northernmost range of the species.

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