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Eriophyoid mite fauna (Acari: Trombidiformes: Eriophyoidea) of Turkey: new species, new distribution reports and an updated catalogue

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Table of contents

Abstract	5
Introduction	5
Materials and methods	6
List of species	7
Family: Phytoptidae Murray, 1877	7
Subfamily: Phytoptinae Murray, 1877	7
<i>Phytoptus albae</i> n. sp.	7
<i>Phytoptus avellanae</i> Nalepa, 1889	9
Family: Eriophyidae Nalepa, 1898	9
Subfamily: Cecidophyinae Keifer, 1966	9
Tribe: Colomerini Newkirk and Keifer, 1975	9
<i>Colomerus vitis</i> (Pagenstecher, 1857)	9
Subfamily: Cecidophyinae Keifer, 1966	10
Tribe: Cecidophyini Keifer, 1966	10
<i>Cecidophyes gymnaspis</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	10
<i>Cecidophyopsis vermiformis</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	10
<i>Coptophylla lamimani</i> (Keifer, 1939)	10
<i>Glyptacus erevanicus</i> Shevtchenko and Pogosova, 1983	11
Subfamily: Eriophyinae Nalepa, 1898	11
Tribe: Eriophyini Nalepa, 1898	11
<i>Eriophyes armeniacus</i> Bagdasarian, 1970	11
<i>Eriophyes carueli</i> (Canestrini, 1892)	12
<i>Eriophyes euphorbiae</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	12
<i>Eriophyes laevis</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	12
<i>Eriophyes mali</i> Nalepa, 1926	12
<i>Eriophyes orientalis</i> (Fockeu, 1892)	13
<i>Eriophyes platani</i> Domes, 2002	13
<i>Eriophyes pyri</i> (Pagenstecher, 1857)	13
<i>Eriophyes septemlineatus</i> Petanović, 1991	14
<i>Eriophyes similis</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	14
<i>Eriophyes similisprunianus</i> Masee, 1930	15
<i>Eriophyes sorbi</i> (Canestrini, 1890)	15
<i>Eriophyes tiliae</i> (Pagenstecher, 1857)	15
<i>Eriophyes viburni</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	16
<i>Senacis triradiata</i> (Nalepa, 1892)	16
Subfamily: Eriophyinae Nalepa, 1898	16
Tribe: Aceriini Amrine and Stasny, 1994	16
<i>Acalitus essigi</i> Hassan, 1928	16
<i>Acalitus phloeocoptes</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	17
<i>Aceria acroptiloni</i> Shevtchenko and Kovalev, 1974	17
<i>Aceria aegyptica</i> (Rasmy and Abou-Awad, 1979)	17
<i>Aceria angustifoliae</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, de Lillo and Çobanoğlu, 2008	18
<i>Aceria ankarensis</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, Çobanoğlu and de Lillo, 2006	18
<i>Aceria anthocoptes</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	18
<i>Aceria avanensis</i> Bagdasarian, 1970	19
<i>Aceria balasi</i> Farkas, 1960	19
<i>Aceria calaceris</i> Keifer, 1952	19
<i>Aceria campestricola</i> (Frauenfeld, 1865)	19
<i>Aceria cerrea</i> (Nalepa, 1898)	20
<i>Aceria chondrillae</i> (Canestrini, 1890)	20
<i>Aceria cichorii</i> Petanović, Boczek and Shi, 2002	21
<i>Aceria dioicae</i> (Keifer, 1979)	21
<i>Aceria dispar</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	21
<i>Aceria drabae</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	21
<i>Aceria egmirae</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, Çobanoğlu and de Lillo, 2006	22
<i>Aceria elaeagnicola</i> Farkas, 1963	22
<i>Aceria erinea</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	22
<i>Aceria ficus</i> (Cotte, 1920)	23
<i>Aceria filiformis</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	23
<i>Aceria fraxinivora</i> (Nalepa, 1909)	23
<i>Aceria granati</i> (Canestrini and Massalongo, 1894)	24
<i>Aceria ilicis</i> (Canestrini, 1890)	24

<i>Aceria kiefferi</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	24
<i>Aceria malherbae</i> Nuzzaci, 1985	25
<i>Aceria massalongoi</i> (Canestrini, 1890)	25
<i>Aceria novellae</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, Çobanoğlu and de Lillo, 2007	25
<i>Aceria oleae</i> (Nalepa, 1900)	25
<i>Aceria populi</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	26
<i>Aceria petanovicae</i> Amrine and de Lillo, 2015	26
<i>Aceria salicina</i> (Nalepa, 1911)	26
<i>Aceria salsolae</i> de Lillo and Sobhian, 1996	27
<i>Aceria salviae</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	27
<i>Aceria sheldoni</i> (Ewing, 1937)	28
<i>Aceria solcentaureae</i> de Lillo, Cristofaro and Kashefi, 2003	28
<i>Aceria solstitialis</i> de Lillo, Cristofaro and Kashefi, 2003	28
<i>Aceria squarrosae</i> de Lillo, Cristofaro and Kashefi, 2003	28
<i>Aceria tamaricis</i> (Trotter, 1901)	29
<i>Aceria tenella</i> (Nalepa, 1892)	29
<i>Aceria thessalonicae</i> Castagnoli, 1991	29
<i>Aceria tinctoriae</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, Çobanoğlu and de Lillo, 2006	29
<i>Aceria tosichella</i> Keifer, 1969	30
<i>Aceria tristriata</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	30
<i>Aceria tuberculata</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	30
<i>Aceria tulipae</i> (Keifer, 1938)	31
<i>Aceria tussilagofoliae</i> Boczek, 1964	31
<i>Aceria verbasci</i> Boczek, 1964	31
<i>Paraphytoptus intybi</i> n. sp.	31
Subfamily: Phyllocoptinae Nalepa, 1892	33
Tribe: Phyllocoptini Nalepa, 1892	33
<i>Calepitrimerus baileyi</i> Keifer, 1938	33
<i>Calepitrimerus vitis</i> (Nalepa, 1905)	34
<i>Epitrimerus pyri</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	34
<i>Epitrimerus tanacetii</i> Boczek and Davis, 1984	35
<i>Phyllocoptes abaenus</i> Keifer, 1940	35
<i>Phyllocoptes adalium</i> Keifer, 1939	35
<i>Phyllocoptes amygdali</i> (Bagdasarian, 1972)	35
<i>Phyllocoptes didelphis</i> Keifer, 1954	36
<i>Phyllocoptes eupadi</i> (Newkirk, 1984)	36
<i>Phyllocoptes goniothorax</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	36
<i>Phyllocoptes gracilis</i> Nalepa, 1890	37
<i>Phyllocoptes pruni</i> Soliman and Abou-Awad, 1979	37
<i>Phyllocoptiruta coryli</i> (Liro, 1931)	37
<i>Phyllocoptiruta oleivora</i> (Ashmead, 1879)	38
<i>Platyphytoptus sabiniana</i> Keifer, 1938	38
<i>Vasates immigrans</i> (Keifer, 1940)	38
Subfamily: Phyllocoptinae Nalepa, 1892	38
Tribe: Calacarini Amrine and Stasny, 1994	38
<i>Calacarus carinatus</i> (Green, 1890)	38
Subfamily: Phyllocoptinae Nalepa, 1892	39
Tribe: Tegenotini Bagdasarian, 1978	39
<i>Boczekiana celtidis</i> Petanović, 2001	39
<i>Shevtchenkella brevisetosa</i> (Hodgkiss, 1913)	39
<i>Shevtchenkella ulmi</i> (Farkas, 1960)	39
<i>Tegenotus depressus</i> (Nalepa, 1894)	41
Subfamily: Phyllocoptinae Nalepa, 1892	41
Tribe: Anthocoptini Amrine and Stasny, 1994	41
<i>Abacarus hystrix</i> (Nalepa, 1896)	41
<i>Aculops lycopersici</i> (Tryon, 1917)	41
<i>Aculops montenegrinus</i> (Petanović and de Lillo, 1992)	42
<i>Aculops rhodensis</i> (Keifer, 1957)	42
<i>Aculus aegirinus</i> (Nalepa, 1892)	42
<i>Aculus comatus</i> (Nalepa, 1892)	43
<i>Aculus fockeui</i> (Nalepa and Trouessart, 1890)	43
<i>Aculus ligustri</i> (Keifer, 1938)	43
<i>Aculus mogeri</i> (Farkas, 1960)	44
<i>Aculus olearius</i> Castagnoli, 1977	44

<i>Aculus schlechtendali</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	44
<i>Aculus tetanothrix</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	45
<i>Aculus truncatus</i> (Nalepa, 1891)	45
<i>Anthocoptes aspidophorus</i> (Nalepa, 1890)	45
<i>Anthocoptes cellatus</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, de Lillo and Çobanoğlu, 2008	46
<i>Anthocoptes cornicolus</i> Farkas, 1961	46
<i>Anthocoptes loricatus</i> (Nalepa, 1889)	46
<i>Anthocoptes salicis</i> Nalepa, 1894	46
<i>Anthocoptes trigonellae</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, Çobanoğlu and de Lillo, 2007	47
<i>Metaculus lepidifolii</i> Monfreda and de Lillo, 2012	47
<i>Metaculus rapistri</i> Carmona, 1969	47
<i>Reckella celtis</i> Bagdasarian, 1975	47
<i>Tegolophus califraxini</i> (Keifer, 1938)	48
<i>Tegolophus hassani</i> (Keifer, 1959)	48
<i>Tetra concava</i> (Keifer, 1939)	48
<i>Tetra glycyrrhizae</i> Denizhan, Monfreda, Çobanoğlu and de Lillo, 2007	49
Family: Diptilomiopidae Keifer, 1944	49
Subfamily: Diptilomiopinae Keifer, 1944	49
<i>Diptacus gigantorhynchus</i> (Nalepa, 1892)	49
Family: Diptilomiopidae Keifer, 1944	49
Subfamily: Rhyncaphytoptinae Roivainen, 1953	49
<i>Brevulacus reticulatus</i> Manson, 1984	49
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus ficifoliae</i> Keifer, 1939	50
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus massalongoianus</i> (Nalepa, 1893)	50
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus megarostris</i> (Keifer, 1938)	50
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus negundivagrans</i> Farkas, 1960	50
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus paucianulatus</i> Liro, 1943	51
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus salicifoliae</i> (Keifer, 1939)	51
<i>Rhyncaphytoptus ulmivagrans</i> (Keifer, 1939)	51
<i>Rhinophytoptus concinnusypsilophorus</i> Farkas, 1963	51
<i>Rhinophytoptus dudichi</i> Farkas, 1963	52
Acknowledgements	52
References (authors' English translation of title is provided only if available)	52

Abstract

More than one hundred species of Eriophyoidea have been recorded hitherto from Turkey. Within the last decade, a large plant survey was carried out in order to investigate the eriophyoid fauna present in Turkey, with particular emphasis on species affecting weeds and ornamental plants. In addition, the Turkish literature has been examined for previous records of eriophyoid mites. New species, *Paraphytoptus intybi* n. sp. on common cichory, *Cichorium intybus* (Compositae) and *Phytoptus albae* n. sp. on white poplar, *Populus alba* (Salicaceae), are described and illustrated herein. In addition, a further 31 species were found to be new records for the eriophyoid fauna of Turkey with *Aceria calaceris*, *Phyllocoptes delphis* and *Vasates immigrans* being new reports for the Palaearctic region. All known eriophyoid species records from Turkey appearing in papers published up until March 2013 are listed in this catalogue along with remarks and information on their current distribution in Turkey and taxonomic status.

Key words: faunistic survey, biodiversity, checklist, new records, taxonomy, weeds, ornamental plants

Introduction

The transcontinental territory of Turkey is variable in climate, topography, geology and geomorphology. It also has a range of altitudes and water bodies. In addition, the Near Eastern and Mediterranean areas overlap in Turkey where the Euro-Siberian, Mediterranean and Irano-Turanian phytogeographical subregions of the Palaearctic region meet together. This territory has been largely recognised as having significant biodiversity (Şekercioğlu *et al.* 2011) and its plant resources are characterised by a floristical richness composed of more than 14,000 vascular plant species of which one third are native (Ekim 1993; Karagöz 2003; <http://data.gbif.org/welcome.htm>). Hence, this huge biodiversity has favoured surveys for natural enemies affecting weeds of Euro-Asiatic origin (de Lillo & Sobhian 1994; Sobhian *et al.* 1999; de Lillo *et al.* 2003; Uygur 2004; Smith *et al.* 2006; Lecce *et al.* 2008; Volkovitsh *et al.* 2008).