

Short communication

A new host record of *Allothrombium triticism* (Acari: Prostigmata: Trombidiidae) larvae ectoparasitic on *Adalia bipunctata* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) from Turkey

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چکیده

لارو کنه‌ی *Allothrombium triticism* Zhang فقط به عنوان انگل خارجی شته‌ها گزارش شده است. در طی بررسی فون کنه‌های خانواده‌ی Trombidiidae ترکیه، لاروهای این کنه به عنوان انگل خارجی لاروهای کفشدوزک *Adalia bipunctata* (Linnaeus) از آنکارا جمع‌آوری شد.

Velvet mites of the family Trombidiidae (Acari: Prostigmata) are ectoparasitic in the larval stages and predator in the post-larval stages on several small arthropod groups. Members of this family are parasitic on various insects and arachnids and occur on several phytophagous insect orders including serious pests of many cultivated plants (Eickwort, 1982; Welbourn, 1983; Zhang & Norbakhsh, 1995; Zhang & Saboori, 1996; Zhang, 1998; Goldarezana *et al.*, 2000). Several trombidiid species have been reported as being ectoparasitic on small insects especially on Coleoptera, Orthoptera, Diptera, Lepidoptera, Hemiptera, Homoptera, Hymenoptera (Welbourn, 1983). *Allothrombium pulvinum* Ewing is an important natural enemy of aphids, spider mites and ectoparasite on the *Macrosiphum rosae* L., *Aphis gossypii* Glov. and *Hyalopterus amygdali* (Blach.) in Iran (Hosseini *et al.*, 2002). Also, *A. pulvinum* is the predator of *Planococcus citri* (Risso) and *Pulvinaria aurantii* Cockerel eggs on citrus leaves (Saboori *et al.*, 2003). It has been reported that the larvae of *Allothrombium* species were common ectoparasites of many species of aphids and could also attack larvae of Noctuidae, Chrysomelidae and Coccinellidae (Anonymous, 1983).

Çobanoğlu *et al.* (2003) collected *A. pulvinum* from ornamental plants and reported it for the first time in Turkey. The larva of *Azaritrombium telletxae* (Goldarezana, Zhang & Jordana) was described from thrips in Turkey (Goldarezana *et al.*, 2000). *Allothrombium triticism* Zhang, a predator with larvae ectoparasitic on wheat aphids, was described from Iran (Zhang & Norbakhsh, 1995). Saboori & Kamali (2000) described the adult female of *A. triticism* from specimens collected under the stones in Tehran, Iran. This species was reported by Haitlinger (2000) for the first time in Turkey.

On 3 June 2002, the senior author found larvae of *A. triticism* ectoparasitic on the larvae of *Adalia bipunctata* (L.) (Col.: Coccinellidae), on *Crateagus monogyna* Jacq. (Rosaceae) in Ankara, Turkey. Three larvae of the coccinellids were infected by this mite. The coccinellid larvae were bred in laboratory conditions. As a result, hind wings of emerged adults were defected so they couldn't close their elytra.

Zhang & Saboori (1996) reported that *A. triticism* larvae were ectoparasite on *Coccinella septempunctata* L. in Iran. This indicates that *A. triticism* larvae can attack Coccinellidae. *Adalia bipunctata* is a new host for *A. triticism*.

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