

A new *Pyemotes* (Acari: Pyemotidae) reared from larvae of the Almond Seed Wasp, *Eurytoma amygdali* (Hymenoptera: Eurytomidae) from Hatay, Turkey

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Abstract. In almond orchards in Hatay, southern Turkey, during 2004-2005, a new species of parasitic mite was collected on larvae of the Almond Seed Wasp, *Eurytoma amygdali*, Enderlein 1907 (Hymenoptera: Eurytomidae): *Pyemotes amygdali* n. sp. (Acari: Pyemotidae). Males and females of the new species are described and illustrated, and a key to the Turkish species of the genus is given. The species may be considered as an important agent for the biological control of Almond Seed Wasp.

Kurzfassung. In Mandelgärten im Hatay in der Südtürkei wurde 2004-2005 auf Larven der Mandelsamen-Wespe, *Eurytoma amygdali* Enderlein, 1907 (Hymenoptera: Eurytomidae) eine neue Milbenart entdeckt: *Pyemotes amygdali* n. sp. (Acari: Pyemotidae). Beide Geschlechter der neuen Art werden beschrieben, und für die türkischen Arten der Gattung wird ein Bestimmungsschlüssel gegeben. Die Art kann als wichtiges Mittel zur biologischen Kontrolle der Mandelsamen-Wespe betrachtet werden.

Key words. Acari, Pyemotidae, *Pyemotes amygdali* n. sp., parasite, *Eurytoma amygdali*, Hymenoptera, Turkey.

Introduction

The Almond Seed Wasp, *Eurytoma amygdali* Enderlein, 1907 (Hymenoptera: Eurytomidae), is an important pest of almonds in the Middle East and some countries of the former Soviet Union. The damage caused to the crop can reach up to 90%, by mummifying the infested almonds (KROKOS et al. 1999). During our studies on *E. amygdali*, a large number of pyemotid mites was found parasiting the larvae of this pest in several orchards in Hatay province of Turkey. This pyemotid proves to be a species new to science.

Members of the family Pyemotidae are widespread and cosmopolitan. 15 species of the genus *Pyemotes* Amerling, 1862 are known as insect parasites, and eight of them are parasites of one or more forest insects (CROSS et al. 1981). *Pyemotes* species are classified into two groups, the *Pyemotes scolyti*-group and the *Pyemotes ventricosus*-group. Members of the *Pyemotes scolyti*-group are associated with various bark beetles, whereas the *Pyemotes ventricosus*-group has a wide range of hosts but is mainly reported from stored grains, as parasites of grain-inhabiting insects, from laboratory cultures, and from natural infestations as on *Apis mellifera* L., 1758 (Hymenoptera: Apoidea), and from wasp nests.

Only a few parasitic *Pyemotes* species are known from Turkey: *P. zwoelferi* Krczal, 1963, *P. ventricosus* (Newport, 1850) and *P. johnmoseri* Khaustov, 2004 (ÖNCÜER et al. 1977, ÖZER et al. 1989, ÖZER & YÜCEL 1989, ÇAKMAK et al. 2006). *Pyemotes herfsi* (Oudemans, 1936), which is conspecific with *P. zwoelferi* according to CROSS et al. (1981), was found on