

**A New record of rake legged mites from Turkey: *Allocaeculus multispinosus* (Acari: Caeculidae)**Sedat PER<sup>1</sup>, Salih DOĞAN<sup>2</sup>, Nusret AYYILDIZ<sup>3</sup><sup>1</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Art and Science, Bozok University, Yozgat, Turkey<sup>2</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Art and Science, Erzincan University, Erzincan, Turkey<sup>3</sup>Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Erciyes University, Kayseri, Turkey  
sedat.per@bozok.edu.tr

**Aim of the study:** The family Caeculidae is majority known as rake-legged mites due to the presence of elongate spine like setae on the legs, particularly the first pair, and they are usually predaceous. The caeculid mites are relatively large (1000–3000 µm) than others. This family comprises seven genera, including *Allocaeculus* Franz. This genus consists of 35 species in the world. To date, one species of *Allocaeculus* has been given from Turkey. *Allocaeculus multispinosus* has been found in Turkey for the first time. In the present work, we aimed to contribute to the biological diversity in Turkey.

**Material and Methods:** The mite specimens were obtained by pitfall traps from Aydın and Muğla provinces, Turkey. The specimens were examined by means of an Olympus CX21 microscope and Leo 440 scanning electron microscope. Specimens examined were deposited in the Biology Department of Bozok University, Turkey.

**Results:** *Allocaeculus* Franz is a genus within the family Caeculidae. They can be recognized by the anterior half of the prodorsal sclerite being extensively neutrichous, unequal tarsal claws of leg I and by the absence of dorsodistal bothridia on legs I and II. Up to now 35 species belonging to this genus are known in the world, only one of which, *A. turcicus*, is described from Turkey. With this study, an additional species, *Allocaeculus multispinosus* Franz, was recorded for the first time for the Turkish mite fauna. This species was only given before from Spain. This is the second report of the species for now.

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**Keywords:** Acari, *Allocaeculus*, diversity, new record, Turkey.