

Abstract*

The social parasitic ant *Plagiolepis xene* STÄRCKE, 1936 new to Turkey (Hymenoptera: Formicidae)

Kadri KIRAN & Nihat AKTAÇ

Dr. Kadri Kiran (contact author), Prof. Dr. Nihat Aktaç, Trakya University, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, Department of Biology, 22030 Edirne, Turkey. E-mail: kadrikiran@trakya.edu.tr; nihata@trakya.edu.tr

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Turkey is zoogeographically very heterogeneous. Nearly 300 ant species are known, but information on parasitic species is still sparse. Since the first recording of socially parasitic ant species from Turkey, by SANTSCHI (1921), 17 permanent and 17 temporary social parasite species have been recorded among the Turkish ant fauna. In Turkey, *Plagiolepis* MAYR, 1861 is represented by five independent taxa (*P. ancylensis* SANTSCHI, 1920, *P. pallescens pallescens* FOREL, 1889, *P. pallescens* ssp. *maura* SANTSCHI, 1920, *P. pygmaea* (LATREILLE, 1798), and *P. taurica* SANTSCHI, 1920 (= *vindobonensis* LOMNICKI, 1925)) and by two inquiline species (*P. ampeloni* (FABER, 1969) and *Plagiolepis* sp.). In this study, we report the social parasite *Plagiolepis xene* STÄRCKE, 1936 for the first time in Turkey.

The sample data are: Turkey: Çanakkale-Ayvacık-Süleymanköy Village (N 39° 38', E 26° 26', 300 m a.s.l.), from a rocky pine forest (*Pinus brutia* TENORE), under stones, 22.VIII.2002, leg. Nihat Aktaç, 34 dealate queens. Host species: *Plagiolepis taurica*.

In Turkey, the ant genus *Plagiolepis* has been represented to date by two inquiline species (*P. ampeloni* and *Plagiolepis* sp.). *Plagiolepis ampeloni* was recorded from İlyasbey, Kastamonu Province, on the Black Sea coast, in a *Plagiolepis* cf. *vindobonensis* nest. *Plagiolepis* sp. is an unidentified inquiline species, recorded from Mersin by SCHULZ & SANETRA (2002), South Anatolia. Referring to a personal communication by A. Buschinger these authors report that males of this species have morphologically well-defined genitals. Our study presents the third inquiline ant species, *P. xene*. *Plagiolepis xene* is a parasite of *P. pyg-*

maea (ARON & al. 1999), *P. taurica* (FABER 1969), and *P. schmitzii* (MARTINEZ & al. 2002). This species is distributed mainly in western Europe, but also in Greece (MARTINEZ & al. 2002) and in the Ukraine (RADCHENKO 1989). In the case of the Turkish record, *P. xene* was found in a nest of *P. taurica*.

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