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# Correspondence

## *Parapygmephorus crossi* (Acari, Heterostigmata, Neopygmephoridae), a mite species new to fauna of Iran

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There are 21 genera in the family Neopygmephoridae (Acari: Heterostigmata: Pygmephoroidea) (Khaustov and Mandelshtam 2017) in which many of them are associated with various arthropods including chilopods, spiders, bees, ants, beetles, and termites (Khaustov 2017). One of the neopygmephorid genera is *Parapygmephorus* Cross, 1965 encompassing eight species, associated with bees of the families Halictidae, Apidae, Colletidae and Megachilidae, and in one case on a spider wasp, Pompilidae (Fan *et al*. 2014). These phoretic mites feed on fungi in the nests of their bee hosts and are clinging them by a large and strong single claw on their first tibiotarsus (Cross 1965).

During a sampling of bees and their associate mites in Iran, the mite *Parapygmephorus crossi* Mahunka, 1974 (Figs. 1A, B) recovered from *Halictus* (*Halictus*) *resurgens* Nurse, 1903 (Halictidae) (Figs. 1C, D) in city park (Park Jangali) close to Yasouj, capital of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad Province (Southwestern Iran) on 7 September 2014. Twelve specimens of phoretic mites were found attaching to body hairs of a bee host. The materials are deposited in the Acarological Collection, Department of Entomology, Faculty of Agriculture, Tarbiat Modares University, Tehran, Iran.

Mite *Parapygmephorus crossi* was collected and described for the first time on *Halictus holtzi* (Schultz) from Afghanistan (Mahunka 1974) characterized by setae $ps_1$ longer than $ps_2$ and setae $ps_3$ distinctly shorter than $ps_2$. So, it is first record of this species in Iran and second record in the world, including Palaearctic. Previously, three other species of the *Parapygmephorus* were collected from Iran: *P. khorasanicus* Hajiqanbar & Khaustov, 2011 on *Halictus quadricinctus* (Fabricius); *P. delyorum* Mahunka, 1980 on an unidentified halictid bee; and *P. magnisetosus* Khaustov and Zaloznaya, 2011 on *Amigella* sp. and *Eucera* sp. (Apidae), *Halictus* spp. and *Lasioglossum* sp. (Halictidae), and *Lithurgus chrysurus* Fonscolombe, 1834 (Megachilidae) (Hajiqanbar *et al.* 2011a, b; Hajiqanbar and Rakhshani 2011; Loghmani *et al*. 2014; Sobhi *et al*. 2017).

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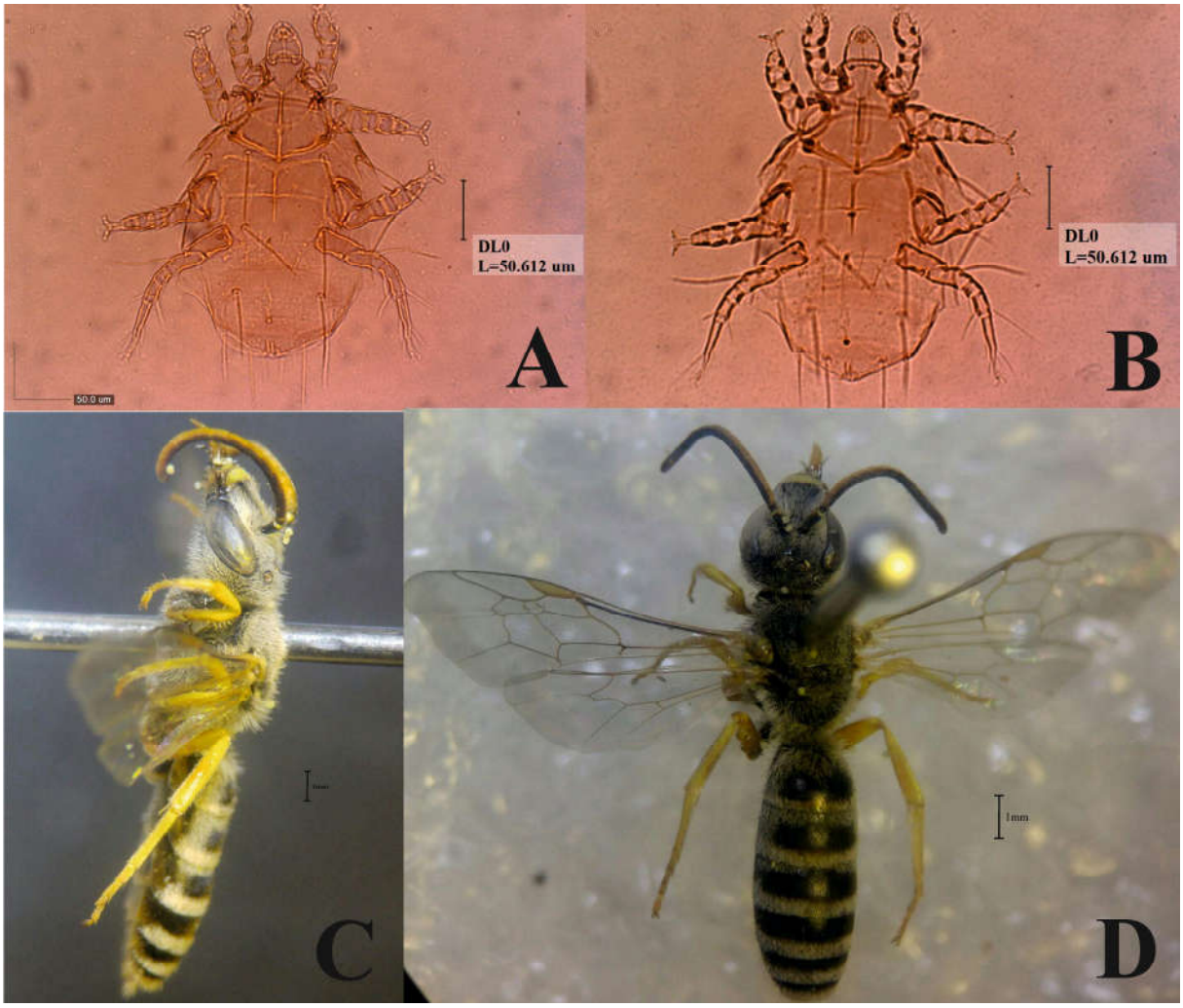


**Figure 1.** *Parapygmephorus crossi* Mahunka, 1974 (A, B), and *Halictus* (*Halictus*) *resurgens* Nurse (C, D) – A. Ventral view of body; B. Dorsal view of body; C. Lateral view of body; D. Dorsal view of body.

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