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A New Genus and Species Record For The Spider Fauna of Türkiye (Araneae: Gnaphosidae)

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ABSTRACT
In this study, a new record genus and a new record species of Gnaphosidae Pocock, 1898 from the provinces of Manisa and İzmir in the Aegean region of Türkiye are presented. Characteristics and photographs of *Talanites strandi* Spassky, 1940 (♂,♀) are presented. Also, the distribution of the species in Türkiye is mapped.

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Türkiye Örümcek Faunası için Yeni bir Cins ve Tür Kaydı (Araneae: Gnaphosidae)

ÖZET
Bu çalışmada, Türkiye'nin Ege bölgesinde yer alan Manisa ve İzmir illerinden Gnaphosidae Pocock, 1898 familyasının bir cins kayıdı ve bir yeni tür kaydı sunulmuştur. *Talanites strandi* Spassky, 1940'nın türünün (♂,♀) özellikleri ve fotoğrafları sunulmuştur. Ayrıca türün Türkiye'deki dağılımı haritalandırılmıştır.

Zooloji

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Türkiye

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INTRODUCTION
Gnaphosidae is a large spider family comprising 153 genera and 2,487 species worldwide. Within this family, the genus Talanites Simon, 1893 includes only 21 species (World Spider Catalog, 2025). In Europe, it is represented by ten species (Nentwig et al., 2025). Diagnostic characters of the genus *Talanites* include tibia IV bearing two dorsal spines, almost circular posterior median eyes, and, in males, a curved retrolateral tibial apophysis, a thick embolus, and a long, hooked median apophysis on the palp.

This paper presents the diagnostic features and distribution of *Talanites strandi* Spassky, 1940, adding a new species record to the araneofauna of Türkiye. This species was described from Ukraine by Spassky (1940), and until now, this species has been reported from Ukraine, European Russia, and Kazakhstan (World Spider Catalog, 2025). With this new record, the number of genera and species of Gnaphosidae in Türkiye has increased to 35 and 164, respectively (Demir and Seyyar, 2017; Danışman et al., 2024).

MATERIAL and METHOD
Materials were collected from İzmir and Manisa provinces in Türkiye by pitfall and MSS (Mesovoid Shallow

Substratum) traps. Specimens were identified using a Leica S8APO stereomicroscope and an identification key provided by Nentwig et al. (2025). Samples were photographed using a Canon EOS 250D camera attached to a Leica S8APO stereomicroscope. Images were montaged using Combine ZM image stacking software and processed in Photoshop CC 2019. The female genitalia were dissected and cleaned in an 88% lactic acid solution for 2–3 days. Geographic coordinates were obtained using a smartphone's GPS. Measurements are given in millimeters (mm). Leg measurements are shown as total length (femur + patella + tibia + metatarsus + tarsus). The specimens were preserved in 96% ethanol and deposited in the collection of the Arachnological Museum of Kırıkkale University (KUAM).

RESULTS

Family Gnaphosidae Pocock, 1898

Genus *Talanites* Simon, 1893

Type species: *Talanites fervidus* Simon, 1893

Talanites strandi Spassky, 1940

Talanites strandi Spassky, 1940: 353, pl. 7, f. 1 (♂).

Talanites strandi Platnick & Ovtsharenko, 1991: 119, f. 13-14 (♂).

Talanites strandi Ponomarev & Tsvetkov, 2004: 94, f. 9-10 (♀).

Talanites strandi Wunderlich, 2011: 37, f. 30 (♂, not f. 31, =T. moodyae).

Talanites strandi Kovblyuk & Kastrygina, 2012: 187, f. 1-12 (♂♀).

Material examined: 2♂♂, 1♀ İzmir province, Kemalpaşa district, Spil mountain (38°32'18"N 27°27'35"E), elevation 1052 m, 22.06-19.12.2024, pitfall trap, leg. E.A. Yağmur & S. Anlaş. 2♂♂, Manisa province, Şehzadeler district, Spil mountain (38°34'14"N 27°29'34" E), elevation 661 m, 01.05-16.07.2022, MSS trap, leg. E.A. Yağmur & S. Anlaş. 2♂♂, Manisa province, Demirci district (39°00'28"N 28°40'46"E), elevation 812 m, 22.06-19.12.2024, pitfall trap, leg. E.A. Yağmur & G. Yağmur.

Description.

Male. Measurements: Total length 7.8. Carapace 3.7 long, 2.8 wide. Abdomen 4.1 long, 2.1 wide. Ocular area 0.7 long. Chelicerae 1.3 long, 0.6 wide. Sternum 2.0 long, 1.5 wide. Leg formula 4123. Leg lengths: Leg I 11.0 (3.0, 1.5, 2.8, 2.2, 1.5), Leg II 9.7 (2.5, 1.3, 2.4, 2.0, 1.5), Leg III 8.9 (2.5, 1.1, 2.1, 2.0, 1.3), Leg IV 12.3 (3.1, 1.3, 2.9, 3.5, 1.5).

Prosoma light brown (Figure 1-A). Chelicerae yellowish brown, with dorsally dark colour hair (Figure 1-C). Cheliceral teeth; anterior 3, posterior 2 (Figure 3-A). Sternum yellowish brown, dark at the edges (Figure 1-B). Abdomen whitish yellow and intensely covered with light hairs (Figure 1-A). The front of the abdomen with long dark hairs and six black spots in the middle (Figure 1-A). Legs yellowish brown, covered with light colour hairs (Figure 1-A, B). Spinnerets are long and light brown (Figure 1-A, B).

Palp as in Figure 2; Pedipalp with curved tip and long groove-like embolus, transparent and leaf-like conductors. Long pointed median apophysis with tip curved inward. Retrolateral tibial apophysis broad, directed laterally, gradually narrowing, pointed tip.

Female. Measurements: Total length 7.9. Carapace 4.6 long, 2.8 wide. Abdomen 3.3 long, 2.5 wide. Ocular area 0.6 long. Chelicerae 1.2 long, 0.6 wide. Sternum 1.8 long, 1.4 wide. Leg formula 4123. Leg lengths: Leg I 8.8 (2.5, 1.4, 2.2, 1.5, 1.2), Leg II 8.2 (2.4, 1.2, 2.0, 1.4, 1.2), Leg III 7.9 (2.2, 1.0, 1.9, 1.7, 1.1), Leg IV 11.2 (2.8, 1.4, 2.5, 3.0, 1.5). Prosoma light brown (Figure 4-A). Chelicerae yellowish brown, with dorsally long dark colour hair (Figure 4-C). Cheliceral teeth; anterior 3, posterior 2 (Figure 3-B). Sternum yellowish brown, dark at the edges, and covered with hairs (Figure 4-B). The abdomen is grayish yellow and intensely covered with light hairs (Figure 4-A). The front of the abdomen with long dark hairs and six black spots in the middle (Figure 4-A). Legs yellowish brown, covered with dark colour hairs (Figure g 4-A, B). Spinnerets long and brown (Figure 4-A, B).

Epigyne and vulva as in Figure 5; The rectangular central depression with a wide triangular hood anteriorly. Epigyne has two large spermathecae, which occupy almost the entire central pit, touching each other in the anterior and middle parts (Figure 5).

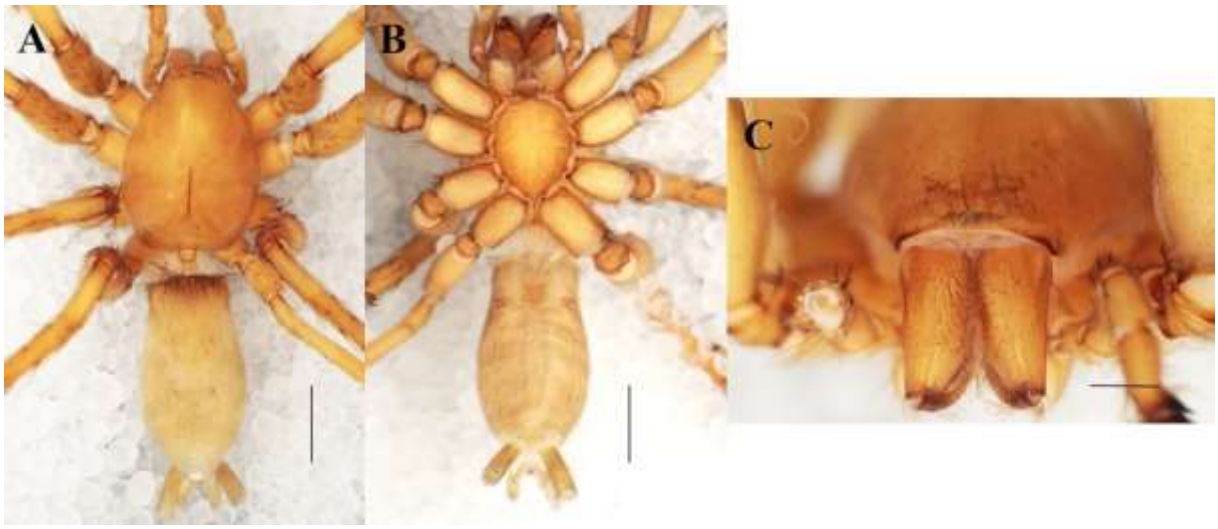

Figure 1. *T. strandi*, habitus, male, **A** – Dorsal view, **B** – Ventral view, **C** – Prosoma, frontal view. Scale 0.5 mm.
Şekil 1. *T. strandi, genel görünüş, erkek, **A** – Dorsal görünüm, **B** – Ventral görünüm, **C** – Prosoma, Önden görünüm. Ölçek 0.5 mm.*

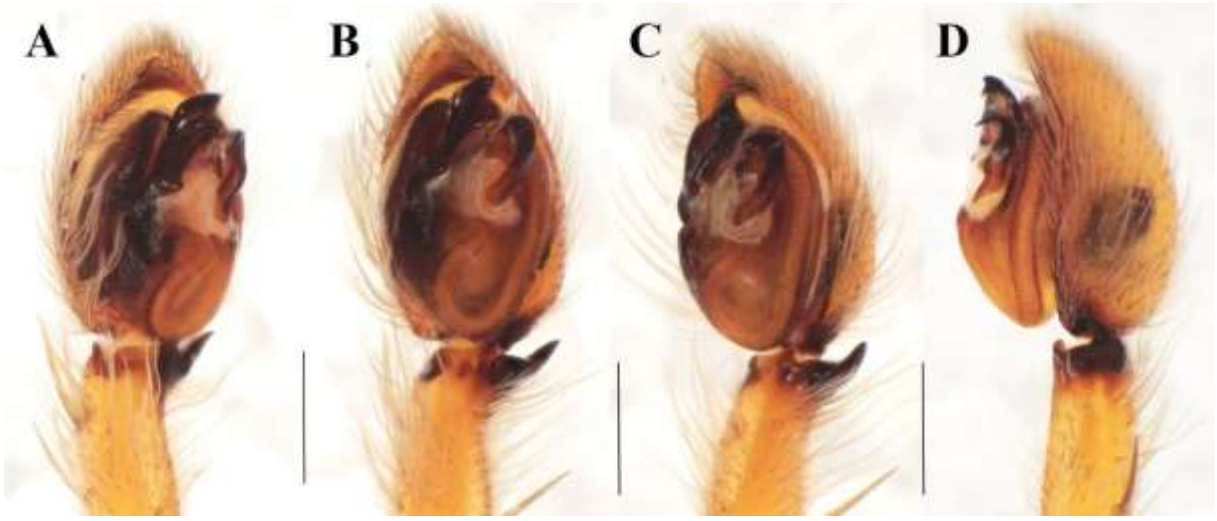

Figure 2. *T. strandi*, male, pedipalp, **A** – Prolateral view, **B** – Ventral view, **C** – Retrolateral view, **D** – Lateral view. Scale 0.5 mm.
Şekil 2. *T. strandi, erkek, pedipalp, **A** – Prolateral görünüm, **B** – Ventral görünüm, **C** – Retrolateral görünüm, **D** – Lateral görünüm. Ölçek 0.5 mm.*

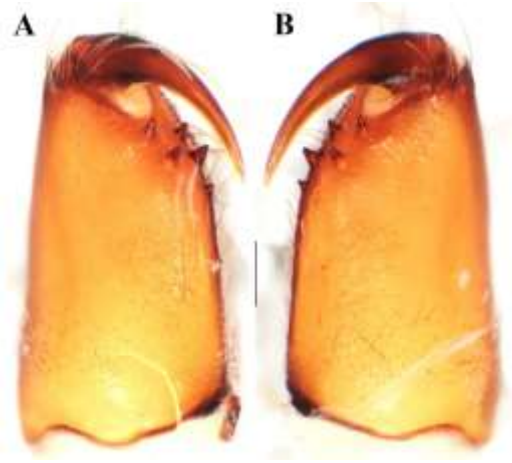

Figure 3. *T. strandi*, left chelicerae, posterior view, **A** – Male, **B** – Female. Scale 0.2 mm.
Şekil 3. *T. strandi, sol keliser, arka görünüm, **A** – Erkek, **B** – Dişi. Ölçek 0.2 mm.*

Figure 4. *T. strandi*, habitus, female, **A** – Dorsal view, **B** – Ventral view, **C** – Prosoma, frontal view. Scale A-B: 1.0 mm, C: 0.5 mm.

Şekil 4. *T. strandi, genel görünüş, dişi, **A** – Dorsal görünüm, **B** – Ventral gürünüm, **C** – Prosoma, Önden görünüm. Ölçek A-B: 1.0 mm, C: 0.5 mm.*

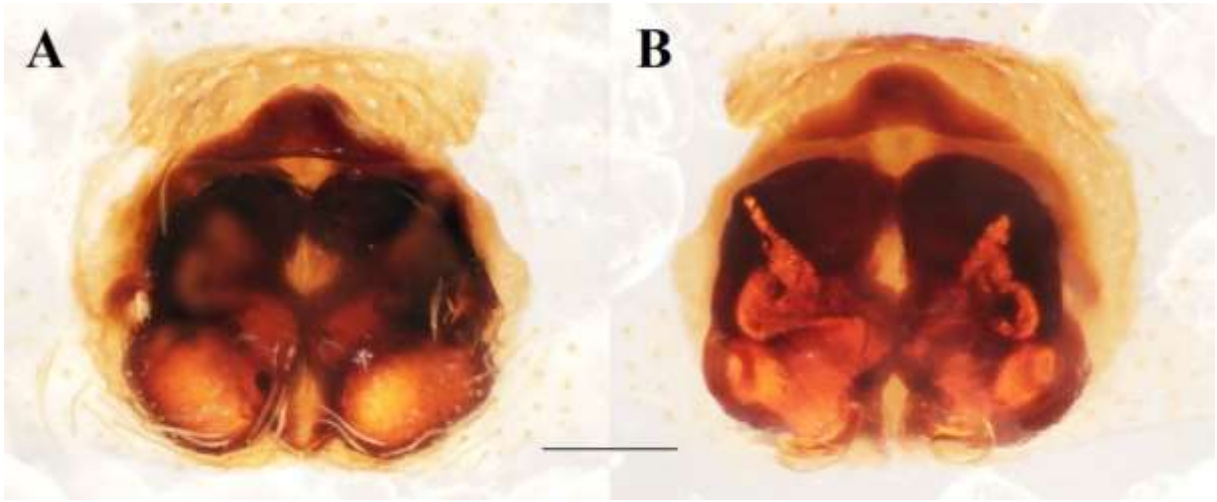

Figure 5. *T. strandi*, female, epigyne, **A** – Dorsal view, **B** – Ventral view, Scale 0.2 mm.

Şekil 5. *T. strandi, female, epijin, **A** – Dorsal görünüm, **B** – Ventral görünüm, Ölçek 0.2 mm.*

Habitat. The specimens were collected using pitfall traps placed in a red pine (*Pinus brutia*) forest. The locality is situated in a small valley that contains a water stream and is characterized by a cool and humid climate. The forest floor was covered with a thick layer of leaf litter. The pitfall traps consisted of 1-liter glass jars filled with 0.5 Liters of ethylene glycol. Five traps were placed within the pine needle litter and covered with flat stones to protect them (Figure 6). Specimens were also collected using MSS traps, which were designed following the method of López and Oromí (2010). For the general appearance and structure of the MSS trap, see Lohaj and Anlaş (2021: fig. 9). These traps were set in areas with accumulated stones (Figure 7). This habitat is also cool and humid.

The map of the record was prepared using SimpleMappr- https://www.simplemappr. net (Shorthouse 2010) (Figure 8).

Distribution. Ukraine, Russia (Europe), Kazakhstan (World Spider Catalog, 2025; Nentwig et al. 2025).

DISCUSSION

In this study, *T. strandi* Spassky, 1940, is presented as a new record for the spider fauna of Türkiye. In addition, the genus *Talanites* is added as a new genus record for the country. With these records, the number of genera belonging to the family Gnaphosidae in the spider fauna of Türkiye has increased to 35, and the number of species to 164. The known gnaphosid fauna of Türkiye appears to be rich. However, taking into account high number of species in the neighbouring countries, which have considerably smaller areas, e.g. Greece (169), Bulgaria (113),

Cyprus (66), Georgia (71) and Armenia (16) (Bosmans et al. 2019, Otto 2022, Nentwig et al. 2025), many more new species records can be expected from Türkiye. However, spider diversity in many regions of Türkiye has not been fully investigated, and the number of species of Turkish gnaphosids should be much higher. Therefore, more faunistic studies as well as detailed taxonomic surveys are needed, especially in the border regions of the country, which have so far been neglected by most arachnologists.

Figure 6. The locality of the pitfall trap sets on Mount Spil.
Şekil 6. *Spil Dağı'ndaki çukur tuzak setlerinin yeri.*

Figure 7. The locality of the MSS traps on Mount Spil.
Şekil 7. *Spil Dağı'ndaki MSS tuzaklarının yeri.*

Figure 8. Distribution of *T. strandi* (red star) from Türkiye.
Şekil 8. *Türkiye'den T. strandi (kırmızı yıldız)'nin dağılımı.*

Contribution Rate Statement Summary of Researchers

The authors declare that they have contributed equally to the article.

Conflict of Interest

The authors report no conflicts of interest.

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