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# Ectoparasites remains from Areni-1 (Birds Cave) cave in Armenia.

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## Abstract

Invertebrates' remains can be found in many different environments. They are the most significant source for paleoparasitological studies as well as for other paleoecological reconstruction. Preserved paleoparasitological remains are found from the driest to the moistest conditions. They help us to understand past and present diseases and therefore contribute to understanding the evolution of present human sociality, biology, and behavior. In this paper, the scope of the surviving evidence, that came out during Areni-1 cave excavations 2007-2010 will be briefly surveyed. The most common materials used to analyze ancient environment and emphasized ancient human disease. This paper also urges increased cooperation among archaeologists, paleontologists and paleoparasitologists. In this paper, we present ectoparasites eggs of *Polyplax sp.*, that have been found on rodent remains from Areni-1 cave and *Ctenocephalides felis* remains which parasites on cats. In addition, bird tick (larvae) remains *Argas sp.* Previous mentioned are major vectors of important pathogenic virus, bacteria and protozoa threatening human and animals and describes some of the period disease.

**Keywords:** paleoparasitology, ectoparasites, ancient diseases – Areni, 1 cave – Armenia

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