A Cave Obligate Mite  
*Flabellorhagidia pecki*

Chelicerata — Actinedida — Rhagidiidae

**CONSERVATION STATUS / CLASSIFICATION**
- Rangewide: Critically imperiled/Imperiled (G1G2)
- Statewide: Critically imperiled (S1)
- ESA: No status
- USFS: Region 1: No status; Region 4: No status
- BLM: No status
- IDFG: Not classified

**BASIS FOR INCLUSION**
Idaho endemic; restricted distribution.

**TAXONOMY**
This taxon was first collected in 1969 and described as a new species in 1976. *Flabellorhagidia pecki* is the type species of the genus (Elliott 1976).

**DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE**
*Flabellorhagidia pecki* is believed to be endemic to a single cave in Craters of the Moon National Monument (Elliott 1976).

**POPULATION TREND**
No data are available to suggest population trend.

**HABITAT AND ECOLOGY**
This species is an obligate cave inhabitant, but specific habitat requirements have not been published. Elliott (1976) summarized: “*Flabellorhagidia pecki* exhibits cave adaptation in the great attenuation of the legs and setae, eyelessness, and the high degree of sensory development. It should be considered troglobitic.”

**ISSUES**
Threats are unknown, but any activity that might negatively disrupt the cave environment would be considered a threat.

**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**
Additional surveys in other lava tube caves on the Snake River Plain should be conducted to better define the distributional extent of this species.

Although experienced spelunkers are generally aware of the fragility of cave environments, lava-tube caves are popular with inexperienced spelunkers and are susceptible to unintentional damage and vandalism. Particular efforts are needed to protect the cave occupied by this species.
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Point data are from Idaho Conservation Data Center, Idaho Department of Fish and Game.