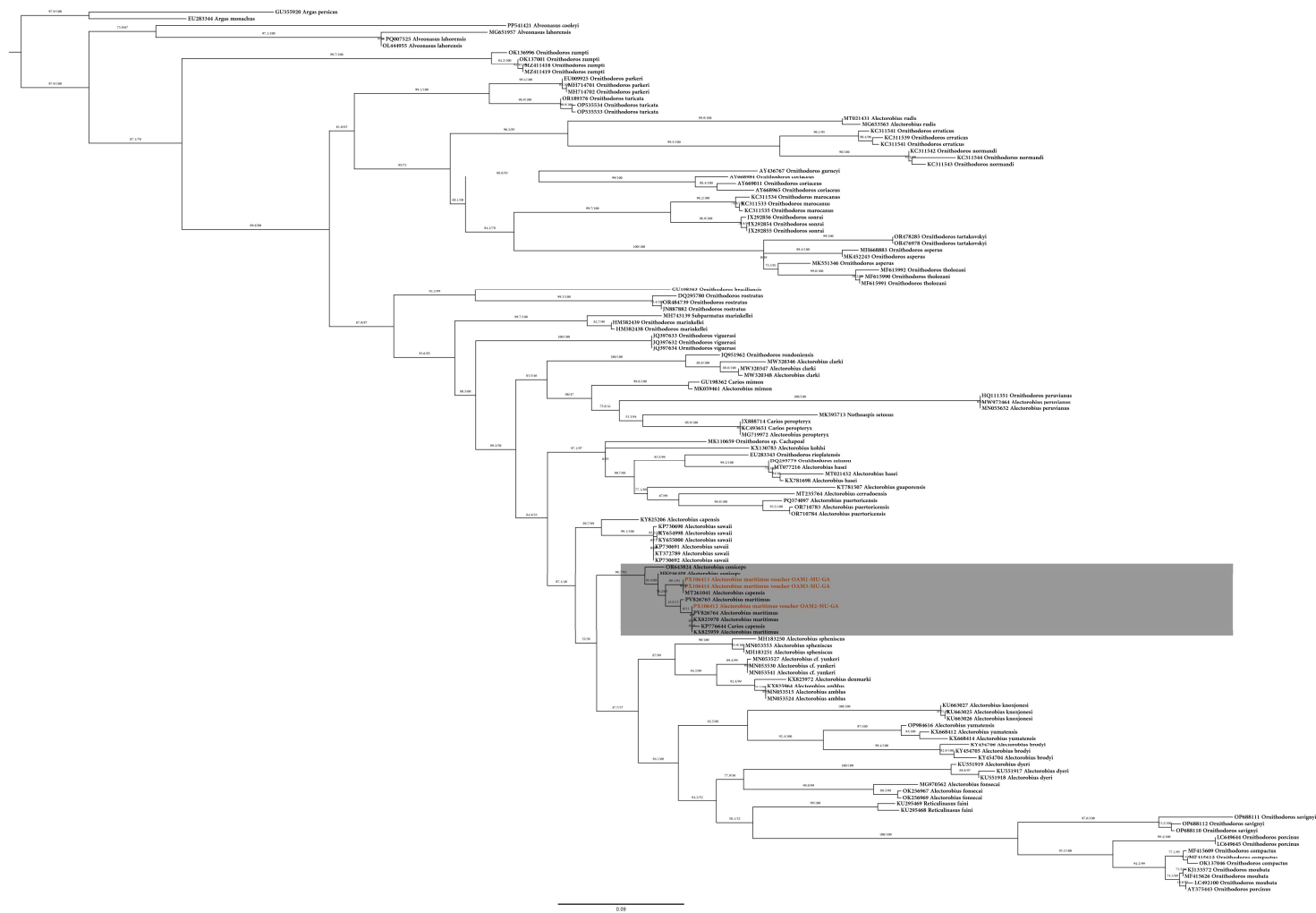




Supplementary Fig. S1: General views of Gull Island (Sinop, Türkiye) and field sampling activities. (A–C) Photographs showing representative areas of the island during fieldwork, including rocky substrates and dense herbaceous and shrub vegetation used by breeding yellow-legged gulls (*Larus michahellis*). Researchers are shown examining gull nesting areas and surrounding substrates for tick collection. (D) Close-up view of an active yellow-legged gull nest containing eggs, located within dense herbaceous vegetation.



Supplementary Fig. S2: Close-up view of an adult *I. ricinus* female attached to the tibial region of a gull chick (*Larus michahellis*) during field examination.



Supplementary Fig. S3: Uncollapsed maximum likelihood phylogenetic tree based on mitochondrial 16S rRNA gene sequences of argasid ticks. The tree includes all taxa shown in Fig. 6 without clade collapsing. Sequences generated in this study are shown in red, with the corresponding cluster highlighted in grey. *Argas persicus* and *Argas monachus* were included as outgroups. Bootstrap support values are shown on branches.