NEW RECORDS OF APHIDIINAE (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) FROM SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO

ANDJELJKO PETROVIĆ 1, ŽELJKO TOMANOVIĆ 2, VLADIMIR ŽIKIĆ 3, NICKOLAS G. KAVALLIERATOS 4 and PÉTR STARY 5

1 Institute for Plant Protection and Environment, Department of Plant Pests, Banatska 33, 11080 Zemun, Serbia.
E-mail: andjeljko@gmail.com
2 University of Belgrade, Faculty of Biology, Institute of Zoology, Studentski trg 16, 11000 Belgrade, Serbia.
E-mail: ztoman@bio.bg.ac.rs
3 University of Niš, Faculty of Sciences and Mathematics, Department of Biology with Ecology, Višegradska 33,
P.O. Box 224, 18000 Niš, Serbia.
Email: vzikic@yahoo.com
4 Benaki Phytopathological Institute, Department of Entomology & Agricultural Zoology,
Laboratory of Agricultural Entomology, 8 Stefanou Delta str, 145 61 Kifissia, Attica, Greece.
E-mail: nick_kaval@hotmail.com
5 Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic, Biology Centre, Institute of Entomology, Branišovská 31,
37005 České Budějovice, Czech Republic.
E-mail: stary@entu.cas.cz

Abstract

During the last 20 years aphid parasitoids have been well-investigated in Serbia and Montenegro. That has resulted in the recording of more than half of the known European species and in revealing many new parasitoid species for science. Here we present a new record of Aphidiinae in Serbia and Montenegro which includes four new species (Lysiphlebus alpinus, Aphidius colemani, Pseudopraon mindariphagum, Trioxys auctus); one new genus (Pseudopraon) and two new parasitoid - aphid host – plant associations (Typha latifolia / Schizaphis scirpi / Trioxys auctus and Typha latifolia / Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae / Trioxys auctus).

KEY WORDS: Aphidiinae, Serbia, Montenegro, new records.
Introduction

Aphidiinae wasps are solitary endoparasitoids of aphids with a great impact on pest aphid control (Starý, 1970; Hagvar & Hofsvang, 1991). Serbia and Montenegro are one of the most extensively researched European areas with 113 species recorded – 96 in Serbia and 48 in Montenegro (Kavalleratos et al., 2004; Tomanović & Kavalleratos, 2004; Tomanović et al., 2005; Tomanović et al., 2006; Tomanović et al., 2007a; Tomanović et al., 2007b; Tomanović et al., 2009a; Tomanović et al., 2009b; Petrović et al., 2009), which is more than half of the European species (206 species in Europe according to Fauna Europea – van Achterberg, 2005).

Here we present an additional contribution to the knowledge of the Aphidiinae of Serbia and Montenegro, including several new records of genera and species as well as host aphid associations.

Material and methods

Plant samples bearing both live and mummified aphids were collected from a few localities in Serbia and Montenegro over a period of 13 years. Live aphids were preserved in 90% ethanol and 75% lactic acid in a ratio of 2:1 (Eastop & Vanden, 1972) for identification at a later date. The remaining aphids were maintained in the laboratory until parasitoid emergence. Mummies, each attached to a small leaf piece, were placed separately in small plastic boxes with a circular opening covered with muslin on the lid and put inside a growth cabinet (22.5 °C, relative humidity 65 %, 16L : 8D) (Kavalleratos et al., 2001). Slides were made in Canada balsam with dissected parasitoids specimens for later identification. The external structure of the emerged parasitoids was studied using a ZEISS Discovery V8 stereomicroscope. Female specimens were gold-coated with a sputter coater and examined using a Jeol JSM – 6460LV scanning electron microscope.

Abbreviations and symbols:
States: SER—Serbia, MNG—Montenegro

Results and Discussion

Review of new records from Serbia and Montenegro

Lysiphlebus alpinus Starý 1971
Figs. 1-3
Semiaphis dauci Fabricius: on Daucus carota (23♂, 73♀), Carska Bara, 02.07.1996, leg. OP (SRB); Semiaphis sp.: on Daucus carota (48♂, 77♀), Bački Monoštor, 16.07.1996, leg. OP (SRB); (25♂, 43♀) Carska Bara, 02.07.1996, leg. OP (SRB).

Aphidius colemani Viereck 1912
Figs. 4 and 5
Myzus persicae (Sulzer): on Cucumis sativus (1♂, 3♀), Zeta, 21.08.2007, leg. SR (MNG); on Capsicum annuum (6♂, 15♀), Podgorica, 29.10.2007, leg. SR (MNG).
New records of Aphidiinae from Serbia and Montenegro

_Pseudopraon mindariphagum_ Starý 1975
_Mindarus abietinus_ Koch: on _Abies alba_ (2♀), Hridsko jezero, 20.07.2006, leg. AP and ŽT (SRB).

_Trioxys auctus_ (Haliday 1833)
_Fig. 6_
_Rhoplosiphum nymphaeae_ Linnaeus: on _Typha latifolia_ (21♂, 10♀), Padinska Skela, 14.05.2007, leg. ŽT and VG (SRB); _Schizaphis scirpi_ Passerini on _Typha angustifolia_ (3♀), Padinska skela, 03.06.2008, leg. MJ (SRB).

Figures 1-3. _L.alpinus_: propodeum (1), ovipositor sheath, lateral aspect (2) and forewing (3).

Figures 4 & 5. _A.coelmani_: ovipositor sheath, lateral aspect (4) and petiole, lateral aspect (5).

_Lysiphlebus alpinus_ has been described by _Starý_ (1970) as a species restricted to Alpine areas from mountain and subalpine zones. It was reared from a _Semiaphis_ sp. / _Lonicera coerulae_ association. However, after we carefully checked material reared from the _Semiaphis dauci / Daucus carota_ association we confirmed the presence of this species in lowland areas. It seems that _L. alpinus_, although originally described as from the Alps, has a much broader distribution following their _Semiaphis_ aphid hosts.
Aphidius colemani is restricted to the Mediterranean area of Europe, and it is also considered native in wide areas of tropical and subtropical Africa and Asia; in other tropical regions it is probably exotic (South America and southeast Asia through Australia), and it was intentionally introduced into some parts of continental Europe (only in indoor conditions), since this species is commercially used as a biocontrol agent against pest aphids in glasshouses.

Pseudopraon is a monotypic genus and the species Pseudopraon mindariphagum is rarely collected in Europe (the only existing data is for Czech Republic and Slovakia (VAN ACHTERBERG, 2005)); nonetheless, we supposed that this species is common in the Abies alba / Mindarus abietinus association on mountains in southern parts of Europe, and in the mountains and the lowlands in central and northern parts of Europe. Except in Europe P. mindariphagum is also known from Baja California, Mexico (STARY & REMAUDIERE, 1982). M. abietinus is distributed all over N America and also occurrence of P. mindariphagum there is probable.

Trioxys auctus was reported as parasitoid of Rhopalosiphum padi (L.) on cereals in several European countries (STARY, 1981, 2006), as well as parasitoid of Rhopalosiphum insertum (Walker) from Italy (STARY, 1981). Schizaphis scirpi and Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae are reported for the first time as aphid hosts for T. auctus.

These new data will heighten the knowledge of the aphidiines of Serbia and Montenegro. They will also bring new insights into the distribution, biogeography and biology of newly recorded species.

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References


НОВИ НАЛАЗИ ПАРАЗИТСКИХ ОСА (HYMENOPTERA: BRACONIDAE) У СРБИЈИ И ЦРНОЈ ГОРИ

АНЂЕЉКО ПЕТРОВИЋ, ЏЕЉКО ТОМАНОВИЋ, ВЛАДИМИР ЖИКИЋ, НИКОЛАС Г. КАВАЛИЕРАТОС И ПЕТР СТАРИ

Извод
Паразитоиди биљних ванију на простору Србије и Црне Горе су добро истражени, нарочито у последњих 20 година. До сада је забележено присуство више од половине европских врста и откривен већи број нових врста за науку. У овом раду представљамо нове налазе паразитских оса који укључују четири нове врсте (Lysiphlebus alpinus, Aphidius colemani, Pseudopraon mindariphagum, Trioxys auctus), један нови род (Pseudopraon) за фауну Србије и Црне Горе. Асоцијације Typha latifolia / Schizaphis scirpi / Trioxys auctus и Typha latifolia / Rhopalosiphum nymphaeae / Trioxys auctus су нове за науку.

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