Myzosiphon staphyleae (Koch), an aphid new to Denmark

Myzosiphon staphyleae (Koch, 1854) is a new addition to the Danish fauna. It was found indoors in a rather dark room on *Vinca minor* penetrating through a crevice between the floor and the wall in the outhouse in my garden at Hellerup in the northern part of Copenhagen (district NEZ), on June 27, 1995. Only apterous viviparous females and nymphs were seen.

The species, which is known also as *Rhopalosiphoninus (Myzosiphon) staphyleae,* is very similar to *M. tulipaellum* (Theobald, 1916), which occurs in beet root clamps in Denmark. In contrast to this species, *M. staphyleae* is without dark, dorsal cross bands on the abdomen, which occasionally may be more or less fused into a central dorsal patch, and its siphunculi are less swollen. These two species have one character in common, viz., the strongly swollen siphunculi. Furthermore, the frontal processes are well developed and have parallel innersides. The body colour is green. A detailed description is given by Heie (1994).

Myzosiphon Hille Ris Lambers, 1946 has usually been regarded as a subgenus of *Rhopalosiphoninus* Baker, 1920, a genus characterized by very strongly swollen siphunculi, lateral frontal tubercles, which are well developed with parallel or converging inner margins, and a rough cuticle on the head and the proximal parts of the antennae. However, as *Rhopalosiphoninus* seems to be heterogenous and probably is a paraphyletic genus, as suggested by Hille Ris Lambers (1953), *Myzosiphon* consequently should be changed from the status of a subgenus into the status of a genus.

Its life cycle is interesting, as it normally is host-alternating with *Staphylea pinnata* as its primary host, a plant which is a very rare ornamental plant in Denmark, but can also behave as an anholocyclic species, living exclusively on its secondary hosts. The primary host, which belongs in Staphyleaceae, is a woody plant with compund leaves. It grows naturally in warm climates.

Among the secondary hosts of this aphid are several herbaceous plants, e.g. *Tulipa, Hemerocallis, Antherium, Crocus, Vinca* and *Cardamine.* Consequently the species can be called polyphagous just like its sister species *M. tulipaellum.* The latter is predominantly anholocyclic, and probably *M. staphyleae* is anholocyclic too in this country and also in most other northern and western European countries, where the primary host is rare or absent. On the other hand, sexuales have been found in western Europe in the autumn, so the tendency for a holocyclic life cycle is still present.

Like other species related to *M. staphyleae,* it seems to prefer rather dark places. The Danish material were accordingly found in a dark corner of an outhouse without windows, only a glass door.

This species could be expected to be found in this country, because it is known from southern Sweden and North Germany. Its European distribution stretches from northern Fennoscandia in the north to Hungary in the south and from Britain in the west to Poland in the east. It is not common in any European country. It is nearly cosmopolitan, as it also has been found in Africa, Australia and North America. Its origin is probably in the Mediterranean region as the home of *S. pinnata* is southeastern Europe (Warming, 1933).

Heie, O. E., 1994c.The Aphidoidea (Hemiptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. V. – *Fauna entomologica scandinavica* 28: 239 pp. (*Myzosiphon staphyleae:* pp. 51-52).

Hille, Ris Lambers, D, 1953. Contributions to a monograph of the Aphididae of Europe V. The Genera *Rhopalosiphoninus* Baker, 1920; *Eucarazzia* del Guercio, 1921; *Rhopalomyzus* Mordv., 1921; *Chaetosiphon* Mordv., 1914; *Cryptomyzus* Oestl., 1922; *Pleotrichophorus* Börner, 1930; *Capitophorus* v.d.Goot, 1913. – *Temminckia,* Leiden IX: 1-176.

Warming, E., 1933. *Frøplanterne (Spermatofyter).* – Gyldendalske Boghandel, 467 pp.

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