

***Ricania japonica* Melichar, 1898 – a representative of family Ricaniidae (Homoptera, Fulgoromorpha), new to the fauna of Bulgaria**

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Abstract. For first time there is a new record of a representative of family Ricaniidae on the territory of Bulgaria. The species *Ricania japonica* Melichar, 1898 was collected in Southeast Bulgaria near to the Black Sea coast.

Key words: Bulgaria, Ricaniidae, new record.

Introduction

Family Ricaniidae Amyot et Serville, 1843 includes approximately 400 species in over 40 genera, occurring predominantly in tropics and subtropics of eastern hemisphere (Gnezdilov 2009).

Two species of the family are known in Europe, both from the nominate genus *Ricania* Germar, 1818. *Ricania hedenborgi* Stal, 1865, is spread in the Palaearctic and Afrotropic regions. In the Palaearctic it occurs in North Africa and the Mediterranean, reaching up to Armenia to the east. It is known in the northern Aegean islands of Greece and Southeast Anatolia (Demir 2009, Nast 1987).

The second species from the genus and family in Europe is *R. japonica* Melichar, 1898. According to Nast (1987), the species has been introduced as a pest on cultivated plants in Georgia and Ukraine (Crimea). The species has been found along the eastern Black Sea coast of Turkey (Rize) (Demir 2009).

The species is a polyphage on shrub and tree vegetation and is often recorded on agricultural crops (*Vitis vinifera* L., *Rubus* sp., *Camelia sinensis* (L.), *Ficus carica* L., *Phaseolus vulgaris* L., *Cucumis sativus* L., *Lycopersicum esculentum* L.) (Demir 2009).

A representative of family Ricaniidae – *Ricania japonica* is recorded for the first time on the territory of Bulgaria.

Material and methods

The investigated mature specimens were collected at the mouth of Veleka river in the most Southeastern part of Bulgaria, nearly 200 m from the Black Sea coast. Two ♀ and two ♂ were collected on a light tower and another 1 ♀ on automatic light trap during the night.

For collecting at light trapping two types of devices were used: "light tower" and light traps. The tower consists of large white sheet (3x3 m) on the ground and transparent cylinder containing 160 W MBFT fluorescent bulb and 8 W "blacklight" tube supplied by generator. The light trap has two blacklight 8 W tubes attached to vertical transparent plastics supplied by a battery. All devices have run during the whole night.

Results

Ricania japonica Melichar, 1898

Material examined: Bulgaria, South Black Sea coast, Veleka river mouth, N42°03'52" E27°58'15", 14.08.2010, 2♀, 2♂ leg. I. Gjonov, 1♀ leg. B. Zlatkov.



Fig. 1. *Ricania japonica*, female.

Discussion

After adding of Ricaniidae to the list of families of Bulgarian Fulgoromorpha, all 12 families represented in continental Europe are known in Bulgaria as well.

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