



Descriptions of four hitherto unknown or little-known morphs of Siphini (Hemiptera, Aphidoidea: Chaitophorinae)

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Abstract

The oviparous female of *Atheroides brevicornis* is re-described, and alate viviparous females of *A. persianus*, *Sipha* (*Sipha*) *littoralis* and *S. (Rungsia) taurica* are described and illustrated for the first time. Keys to oviparae of *Atheroides* and to alate viviparae of *Atheroides* and *Sipha* are provided and notes on distributions and host plants are presented.

Key words: Hemiptera, Aphidoidea, Chaitophorinae, Siphini, taxonomy

Introduction

The Siphini Mordvilko (1928) is a tribe in the subfamily Chaitophorinae (Hemiptera, Aphidoidea), and encompasses an economically important group of aphids associated with grasses and sedges. Five genera, 24 species and one subspecies have been described so far. Most of the described taxa are known from few localities; only about ten species are widely distributed in the Palaearctic region. However, due to the biology of these aphids (they usually live in small colonies or singly in leaf sheaths or inflorescences of grasses and sedges) and difficulties encountered in their collection, there may be a number of species still undescribed. Biological data of some species of Siphini is incomplete or still unknown. Least is known about the sexuales, because this generation appears only for a short period of time during autumn. Similarly, winged forms are also rather rare, because in most species of this tribe these morphs are usually observed only from the second half of June to the first weeks of July.

In various studies on the subfamily Chaitophorinae, the Siphini were usually discussed marginally. However, a monograph of this tribe was published recently (Wieczorek 2010). During preparation of this monograph, some specimens of Siphini were unfortunately overlooked. During an examination of specimens among the materials in the collection of the Natural History Museum, London, specimens of the undescribed alate viviparous females of *Atheroides persianus* Wieczorek, *Sipha* (*Sipha*) *littoralis* (Walker), *Sipha* (*Rungsia*) *taurica* (Mamontova), and the little-known oviparous female of *A. brevicornis* Laing were found. The descriptions and re-description of these morphs are presented in this paper, and notes are provided on distributions and host plants, together with keys to known morphs of genera *Atheroides* Haliday (alate viviparous female, oviparous female) and *Sipha* Passerini (alate viviparous female).

Material and methods

The specimens were examined using the light microscope Nikon Eclipse 600. Drawings were made with a camera lucida. For each of the drawings a magnified view is provided. Measurements are given in mm (Table 1 and 2). The material studied is deposited in the Natural History Museum, London (BMNH).

Atheroides brevicornis Laing

(Fig. 1)

Atheroides brevicornis Laing, 1920: 41–42

Atheroides aplangi Pintera, 1965: 283–284