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urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:C1254E9C-8D45-4E6E-B079-F5FE88F296E3

The scentless plant bug, *Liorhyssus hyalinus* (Fabricius) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Rhopalidae): Description of immature stages and notes on its life history

MARCELA CORNELIS^{1a}, ESTELA QUIRÁN^{1b} & MARÍA C COSCARÓN^{2c}

¹ Universidad Nacional de La Pampa. Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales. Uruguay 151 L6300CLB, Santa Rosa, La Pampa, Argentina.

² Universidad Nacional de La Plata. Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo. División Entomología. Paseo del Bosque s/n 1900, La Plata, Buenos Aires. Argentina.

^a cornelismarcela@gmail.com, ^b emquiran@gmail.com, ^c mcoscaron@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

Abstract

Instars I–V and eggs of *Liorhyssus hyalinus* (Fabricius) (Heteroptera: Rhopalidae) are described and illustrated based on specimens from La Pampa, Argentina. Host plant and parasite data are given for this species.

Keywords: Heteroptera, Rhopalidae, Nymphs, Host plant, *Sonchus oleraceus* L, Hymenoptera, Argentina

Introduction

The family Rhopalidae, often called scentless plant bugs, is a member of the superfamily Coreoidea, and includes 209 species in 21 genera (Henry 2009). The family consists of two subfamilies: Rhopalinae and Serinethinae. The family was formerly treated as a subfamily of the Coreidae, usually with the name Corizinae. Chopra (1967) presented a revision of the higher classification of this family and included keys to subfamilies, tribes and genera, Göllner- Scheiding (1983) published a world-catalog of the family. Rhopalids are found in all major faunal regions.

Until now, contributions on instars included *Arhyssus lateralis* Say (Paskewitz & McPherson 1983), *A. hirtus* Torre-Bueno (Wheeler & Henry 1984), *Rhopalus (Brachycarenum) trigrinus* Schilling (Wheeler & Hoebeke 1988), *R. parumpunctatus* Schill (Stroyan 1954), *Niesthrea louisianica* Sailer (Wheeler 1977), *Harmostes reflexulus* Say (Yonke & Walker 1970), and *Corizus lateralis* Say (Hambleton 1909). Readio (1928) described the eggs, biology, and some host plants of the nymphs of *Liorhyssus hyalinus* (Fabricius).

Plant associations of Rhopalidae were recorded by Schaefer & Chopra (1982) in Compositae. Additional plant records were given by Yonke & Walker (1970), Paskewitz & McPherson (1983), Wheeler & Henry (1984), while Mead & Fasulo (2000) added hosts plants of Sapindaceae.

Scentless plant bugs are of little economic importance except for *Leptocoris augur* and *L. hyalinus* which occasionally attack certain crops (Schaefer & Kotulski 2000). In Chile, Gonzalez (1989) mentions *A. tricostatus* (in vineyards) and *L. lineaventris* (in raspberry groves) as economically important and suggested that quarantine may be required.

La Pampa Province is in the Chaco Domain (Cabrera & Willink 1973) and is characterized by grass-savannas. The climate in La Pampa is warm-temperate, with a regular annual rainfall ranging from 500 to 700 mm; the average annual temperature ranges between 8 and 25 °C (Cano *et al.* 1980).

The purpose of this study is to describe the nymphs of *Liorhyssus hyalinus* (Fabricius) (Heteroptera: Rhopalidae).