Tephritis azari, a New Fruit Fly (Diptera: Tephritidae) from Iran and Azerbaijan, with a Key to the Tephritis maccus Species Group

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Abstract

Tephritis azari sp. nov., from mountains of the northwestern part of Iran and Azerbaijan is described and illustrated. It is closely related to T. maccus Hering and T. urelliosomima Korneyev & Dirlbek based on characters of the wing pattern and aculeus. In addition a key to the species of the T. maccus species group has been provided.

Key words: Tephritidae, Tephritis azari sp. nov., Iran, Azerbaijan

Introduction

The genus Tephritis Latreille 1804 belongs to the tribe Tephritini of the subfamily Tephritinae. With over 150 described species currently assigned to this genus, Tephritis is one of the largest genera of the family Tephritidae, occurring in the Holarctic, Oriental and Afrotropical Regions (Norrbom et al. 1999; Korneyev & Dirlbek 2001; Freidberg & Kutuk 2002); twenty Australian species assigned to Tephritis (Hardy & Drew 1996), later were transferred to the genus Austrotephritis (Hancock & Drew 2003). Foote et al. (1993) revised and keyed the North American species. Merz (1994) provided a comprehensive taxonomic treatment for European species and Korneyev and Ovchinnikova (2004) provided a key to Far East Asian species. In addition Freidberg and Kutuk (2002) revised the T. pulchra group and Kutuk et al. (2012) described T. ozaslani Kutuk et al. and placed it in the T. pulchra group and improved the key to species. Some Middle Eastern species of Tephritis were studied in recent years (Korneyev & Dirlbek 2001; Kütük 2008, Kutuk et al. 2012; Khaghaninia et al. 2011; Mohamadzade Namin 2011) but the complete fauna of Tephritis in this region still has not been properly studied.

Korneyev and Dirlbek (2001) described T. urelliosomima Korneyev and Dirlbek from Iraq and Turkmenistan and placed it with T. maccus Hering in a small and monophyletic maccus group of species. Then, T. sophus Gentilini and Korneyev was described from the Upper Miocene bituminous marls of Italy (Gentilini et al. 2006). The Tephritis maccus species group can be recognized by the following combination of characters: wing pattern radiate; basal cells hyaline; pterostigma brownish without hyaline spot; apical fork connected to main wing pattern; r1 without or only with one large hyaline spot or indentation on anterior margin of wing (sometimes an additional small hyaline spot present in males); crossvein r-m in dark area; aculeus moderately broad, sharply narrowing and pointed at the very apex; the latter character occurs only in T. maccus, T. urelliosomima and T. sophus and is believed to be a synapomorphy of this group of species.

As a result of studies on the tephritid fauna in Azerbaijan region (NW Iran), a previously undescribed species of the T. maccus species group was swept from Senecio vulgaris (Asteraceae); one additional specimen from Azerbaijan was found in a collection. The new species is described and figured below.