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A new species of the leafhopper genus *Naevus* Knight, 1970 (Hemiptera: Cicadellidae: Deltocephalinae: Opsiini), from Saudi Arabia

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Abstract

The genus *Naevus* Knight, 1970 is recorded from the mountains of southwestern Saudi Arabia, the first record from the Arabian Peninsula. A new species, *Naevus hathali* El-Sonbati & Wilson sp. n. is described here, which appears to have an asymmetric aedeagus. An illustrated key to *Naevus* species is presented to facilitate identification.

Key words: Hemiptera, Auchenorrhyncha, Cicadellidae, Deltocephalinae, Opsiini, leafhopper, distribution

Introduction

The leafhopper genus *Naevus* (subfamily Deltocephalinae tribe Opsiini) was erected by Knight, (1970) who described five new species from the Afrotropical region with *Hishimonus dorsiplaga* Heller & Linnavuori, 1968 designated as type species. *Naevus* is closely related to *Hishimonus* Ishihara and *Litura* Knight and the male genitalia must be examined in order to distinguish these genera. *Naevus* can be distinguished from the other two genera by the following combination of characters: subgenital plate gradually tapered apically; pygofer broadly rounded posteriorly (except *N. subparallelus*, acutely rounded posteriorly); aedeagal atrium without processes; shafts each with one or more processes extended ventromesad. Knight (1970) gave a key to genera based on the aedeagus structure.

The biology and economic importance of *Naevus* are largely unknown but *Hishimonus phycitis* Distant is known as a phytoplasma vector in the Middle East region (Salehi *et al.*, 2007). This new species has been found during extensive field work in SW Arabia. The locality of this study is considered one of the richest areas for biodiversity in the Arabian Peninsula because of the geographical position, landform, climatic conditions and availability of water. The huge area and the diversity of habitat types is reflected in the plant diversity. About 24% of flowering plants in Saudi Arabia had been recorded from the southwestern region, ranging between 2000–2500 plant species. The mountains of southwestern Saudi Arabia (Al Bahah, Shada Al Ala, Asir, Abha, Raydah and Jazan, Fiyfa, Al Absia) are one of the most diverse and richest regions for plants in SW Arabia (Hegazy *et al.*, 1998; Heneidy; Bidak, 2001 and Sharaf *et al.*, 2014). While it is already known that the insect fauna has affinities with the Afrotropical region (El Hawagry *et al.*, 2013) there are no comprehensive studies of Cicadellidae in this region. In the Middle East there are only scattered descriptions of species in the taxonomic literature. Recent fieldwork in SW Arabia by the first author has revealed a much greater Auchenorrhyncha diversity than was previously known.

The genus *Naevus* is recorded for the first time from the Arabian Peninsula based upon the new species described below.