

List of Argentinian Tingidae Laporte (Heteroptera) with their host plants

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Abstract

We present a unified and updated list of the Argentinian Tingids and their host plants. All members of this family are phytophagous and rather host specific, with a few exceptions. For Argentina there are records of 84 species of tingids distributed in 25 genera. Host plants are listed for 56 of the 84 species.

Key words: Argentina, lace bugs, Host plants

Introduction

Up to now all information about lace bugs remains fragmentary for Argentina, and no attempt has been made to present it in a unified compilation of species and associated host plants. All lace bugs are phytophagous and they always feed on the same plant or on a group of closely related ones. According to Cobben (1978), who based his studies of the group on the Drake and Ruhoff (1965) catalog, the majority of lace bug species are probably monophagous, but other authors consider them as oligophagous (Tomokuni 1983, Wheeler 1977, 1981, 1987, 1989, Qi et al. 1991, Neal & Schaefer 2000).

Adults and nymphs are usually found on the undersides of leaves, where they feed on the sap of living plants by piercing the epidermis of the leaves with their very slender stylets. These stylets are protrusile and retractile, and can easily penetrate the cellular tissue to extract the sap. Their feeding activities may cause great injury to and plasmolysis of the foliage. Many cultivated and wild plants of prime importance in agriculture and horticulture are seriously affected by the feeding activities of these insects (Drake & Ruhoff 1965).