



Redescription and lectotype designation of *Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum* (Mordvilko) (Hemiptera: Aphididae)

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Abstract

Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum (Mordvilko, 1919) is redescribed based on type material, earlier published data and new material. A lectotype is designated and data provided on the distribution and biology of the species.

Key words: Aphididae, *Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum*, redescription, lectotype designation

Introduction

Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum (Mordvilko, 1919) was described as *Acyrthosiphon (Metopolophium) graminearum* from a few oviparous females and males taken near Petrograd (now St. Petersburg), Russia, at Razdel'naya (now Lisiy Nos) railway station. The aphids were collected by Mordvilko from leaves of an unidentified grass on 23.ix.1913. Hille Ris Lambers (1947) recognised *Metopolophium* as a full genus, and *Metopolophium graminearum* was subsequently recorded from the Eastern Alps by Börner (1952), and from Hohe Tauern by Börner & Franz (1961). However, Hille Ris Lambers (1966) noted that Börner's records were based on misidentifications, and described Börner's aphids as a new species, *Metopolophium montanum*. Despite this, Blackman and Eastop (2006) continued to list Austria as part of the natural range of *M. graminearum*. Mamontova (1959) gave *Arrhenatherum elatius* as a host-plant of *Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum* in a key to aphids of gramineous plants in Ukraine, but without any indication of the source of this data. A short redescription based on Mordvilko's original slide was published by Hille Ris Lambers (1966), and Stroyan (1969) compared the type material with males and oviparous females of *Sitobion scoticum* (Stroyan, 1969). Ossiannilsson (1969) described one apterous viviparous female which he referred to as *Sitobion graminearum*. Heikinheimo (1990) identified and described as the same species an alate viviparous female caught in a wind net trap on 18.vii.1963 in Finland (Uusimaa, Helsinki rural mun.), and in the same paper Heikinheimo erected *Metobion* as a subgenus of *Sitobion* Mordvilko, with *Acyrthosiphon (Metopolophium) graminearum* as type species. Three further species were also included: *Metopolophium beiquei* Hille Ris Lambers, *Metopolophium brevirostre* Heikinheimo, and *Macrosiphum (Sitobion) scoticum* Stroyan. Holman (2009) recorded *Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum* from *Phalaris arundinacea* in the Czech Republic.

Three of Mordvilko's slides of *Sitobion (Metobion) graminearum* are stored in the aphidological collection of the Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences (St. Petersburg). They have slightly different labels: "Ac. (Metopol.) from grasses Razdel'naya St.Pb. IX 1913 AM Nr 76" (oviparous female and male), "Ac. arundinis ? from wild grasses IX 1913 Razdel'naya AM-ko Nr 77" (two oviparous females, male and larvae of oviparous female) and "Macros. green-yellow on and under leaves of grass ♀ 23 Sept.1913 Razdel'naya AM Nr 85" (two oviparous females). Undoubtedly all three slides were made from one sample and this material was used for the description of the species (i.e. these are syntypes). However, it is obvious that some syntypes have been lost, because Mordvilko (1919) described and depicted the male with intact antennae whereas both males on these slides have incomplete antennae.

Apterous viviparous and oviparous females similar to *S. graminearum* were collected by Dr. A.V. Gavriljuk (Institute of Animal Systematics and Ecology, Siberian Branch of the Russian Academy of Sciences, Novosibirsk,