



# Article

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## ***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 (Norrbon *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 marles 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; r<sub>1</sub> 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.