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## A new species of *Dysmicoccus* damaging lavender in French Provence (Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Pseudococcidae)

J. -F. GERMAIN<sup>1</sup>, D. MATILE-FERRERO<sup>2</sup>, M. B. KAYDAN<sup>3</sup>,  
T. MALAUSA<sup>4</sup> & D.J. WILLIAMS<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>ANSES, Laboratoire de la Santé des Végétaux, unité Entomologie et Plantes Invasives, CBGP, 755 avenue du Campus Agropolis, CS 30016, F - 34988 Montpellier-sur-Lez. E-mail: [jean-francois.germain@anses.fr](mailto:jean-francois.germain@anses.fr)

<sup>2</sup>Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Entomologie, Département de Systématique & Evolution, UMR 7205 MNHN-CNRS : ISYEB, Institut de Systématique, Evolution, Biodiversité, case postale N° 50, F - 75231 PARIS Cedex 05

<sup>3</sup>Imamoglu Vocational School, Çukurova University, Adana, 01330, Turkey

<sup>4</sup>INRA, Univ. Nice Sophia Antipolis, CNRS, UMR 1355-7254 Institut Agrobiotech, 06900 Sophia Antipolis, France

<sup>5</sup>Department of Life Sciences, The Natural History Museum, Cromwell Road, London, SW7 5BD, UK

### Résumé

**Une nouvelle espèce de *Dysmicoccus* nuisible à la lavande en Provence (France) (Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Pseudococcidae).** *Dysmicoccus lavandulae* Germain, Matile-Ferrero & Williams n. sp. est décrite et illustrée. Ses séquences ADN sont présentées. L'espèce vit sur *Lavandula x intermedia* cultivée pour la production d'essence de lavande en Provence. La liste des espèces de pseudococcines vivant sur les lavandes spontanées en France est dressée. Le statut des 2 genres voisins *Trionymus* Berg et *Dysmicoccus* Ferris est discuté.

### Abstract

*Dysmicoccus lavandulae* Germain, Matile-Ferrero & Williams n. sp. is described and illustrated, and its DNA sequences given. The species lives on *Lavandula x intermedia*, the cultivated form of lavender grown in the French region of Provence. In addition the mealybug species recorded in France on indigenous lavender are listed. The status of two related genera, *Trionymus* Berg and *Dysmicoccus* Ferris, is discussed.

**Key words:** *Dysmicoccus lavandulae*, mealybugs, *Lavandula* species, lavandin fields, south-eastern France

### Introduction

The lavender fields in Provence, France, have been handed down through many generations of farmers. Many tourists associate these fields with their fragrance, mainly from the lavender hybrid known as lavandin. Production from these crops generates a turnover of 30 million euros, resulting in 10,000 direct and 20,000 indirect jobs, and ensures the maintenance of nearly 2,000 farms, sometimes in areas of low agricultural potential, such as mountains and dry plateau. Tourism in these regions produces a further \$1.7 billion per year.

Production is mainly in the Drôme Department, in the northern part of Provence. Lavender fields cover approximately 20,000 hectares, with 16,000 hectares planted with lavandin and the other 4,000 hectares with true lavender. About 1,600 hectares of lavandin, and 1,200 hectares of lavender are confined to organic farming.

The genus *Lavandula* (Lamiaceae) contains two main species: true lavender, *Lavandula angustifolia* Mill., and Aspic lavender (*Lavandula latifolia* Medik) which has a much stronger perfume than true lavender. Lavandin (*Lavandula x intermedia*) is a hybrid between *Lavandula angustifolia* and *Lavandula latifolia*, and has been cultivated since the 1930s. Its yield is much higher than that of true lavender. In addition, there are a few other *Lavandula* species not used in lavender production, such as *Lavandula stoechas* L., which is endemic to the