

Corythucha ciliata (Say, 1832) (Hemiptera, Tingidae), the nearctic Sycamore lace bug, found in Portugal

José Manuel Grosso-Silva¹ & Ana Aguiar²

¹ CIBIO, Centro de Investigação em Biodiversidade e Recursos Genéticos, Universidade do Porto, Campus Agrário de Vairão, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal. – jmgrossosilva@yahoo.com

² ICETA-CECA e Faculdade de Ciências da Universidade do Porto, Campus Agrário de Vairão, 4485-661 Vairão, Portugal. – aaguiar@fc.up.pt

Introduction

The Sycamore lace bug, *Corythucha ciliata* (Say, 1832), is a nearctic tingid that feeds on the underside of the leaves of *Platanus* spp. (called sycamore trees in North America and planes in the Old World). In North America, the area of occurrence of the Sycamore lace bug extends throughout eastern USA and eastern Canada (Halbert & Meeker, 1998), and the species was introduced and is successfully established in Europe and Asia. The first European record originated from Italy (Padova, in 1964), and the species is currently recorded from several central and southern European countries, namely Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Serbia and Montenegro, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain and Switzerland (Aukema, 2005). According to Gninenko & Orlinskii (2004) it was found in Southern Russia (Krasnodar) in 1997 and it was also very recently reported from China (Streito, 2006).

Corythucha ciliata (Say, 1832), which can be identified with the key of Péricart (1983) and also with the aid of several online resources, is a serious pest of planes, especially when it reaches high densities and infests trees in consecutive years (Halbert & Meeker, 1998). Furthermore, it is associated with two very harmful fungi that cause severe damage to planes (Fraval, 2006).

In the Iberian Peninsula, *Corythucha ciliata* (Say, 1832) appears to be present throughout the Northern half, being recorded from the Spanish provinces of Barcelona (Ribes & Ribes, 2001), Cantabria (Guri, 2002), Girona (Ribes, 1980; Gil & Mansilla, 1981), Guipúzcoa (Pagola-Carte & Zabalegui, 2006), Madrid (Soria *et al.*, 1991), Pontevedra (Anonymous, 2005), Valladolid (Ayuntamiento de Valladolid, 2003), Zaragoza (Barnola *et al.*, 1986), Burgos and León (Manuel Baena, *in litt.*). Furthermore, Martín Bernal *et al.* (2000) report the application of treatments against the Sycamore lace bug in the community of Aragão (without further details), as does Marlès i Magre (2003) for Albereda de Santes Creus, in the province of Tarragona. In the latter case the treatments appear to be preventive, as no record was found of the actual presence of the species in the area.

In this contribution, the presence of the Sycamore lace bug is reported for the first time from continental Portugal, with records from two different areas (Map 1).

MATERIAL EXAMINED: **Porto:** Oporto's Botanical Garden (29TNF3056), 23-02-2007 (3 ex.). **Rio Maior:** Rio Maior (city) (29SND0554), 31-01-2007 (1 ex.). **Trofa:** Seixal (S. Romão do Coronado train station) (29TNF3769), 27-01-2007 (1 ex.). **Vila do Conde:** Vairão (Agricultural Campus) (29TNF2775), 11-01-2007 (8 ex.). All specimens, which are deposited in the collection of the senior author, were collected under the bark of *Platanus* sp.

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Map 1: Known distribution of *Corythucha ciliata* (Say, 1832) in continental Portugal in 10x10 Km UTM squares.



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