

Acyrtosiphon matilei (Hemiptera, Aphididae) in the Cantabrian Mountains (Spain)

Acyrtosiphon matilei (Hemiptera, Aphididae) en la cordillera Cantábrica (España)

Acyrtosiphon matilei Remaudière & Leclant, 2000 is one of the six species of genus *Acyrtosiphon* Mordvilko, 1914 (Hem., Aphididae, Aphidinae, Macrosiphini) monophagous on *Euphorbia* L. (Euphorbiaceae). At this moment *A. matilei* is known in several localities of France (*Alpes-Martimes* and *Haute-Corse* departments), Italy (Ventimiglia, in French border) and Croatia (Cavtat, close to Montenegro) living on *Euphorbia spinosa* L. (REMAUDIÈRE & LECLANT, 2000; BLACKMAN & EASTOP 2006 [2013]). These localities are placed in the Mediterranean phytogeographic Region.

A. matilei is also present in several localities of the Spanish Cantabrian Mountains placed in the Orocantabrian phytogeographic province of the Euro-Siberian region.

Specimens of *A. matilei* (with a total number of 284 apterous and 101 alate viviparous females) were caught on *Euphorbia flavicoma* subsp. *occidentalis* M. Láinz at: Urdón, hydroelectric power station (Cantabria province), 43°16'N, 4°38'W, 110 m [5-VII-1986, 12-VII-1987, 30-IX-1989, 8-X-1994, 25-I-1995], Castro-Cillórgo (Cantabria), 43°11'N, 4°36'W, 238 m [21-V-1989, 1-XI-1989], and San Isidro Pass, northern slope (Asturias province), 43°04'N, 5°23'W, 1520 m [16-VI-1993, 12-X-1994, 12-XI-1994, 10-XII-1994, 25-I-1995].

Both species hosts of *A. matilei*, *E. spinosa* and *E. flavicoma*, belong to the section *Helioscopia* of genus *Euphorbia*; they grow on similar substrates, although *E. spinosa* is xerophyllous and *E. flavicoma* subsp. *occidentalis* prefers humid soils. They have a similar physiognomy, they are perennial, sufrutices, multibranching from the base and small leaves, and forming frequently dense cushion-like masses. The distribution area of *E. flavicoma* subsp. *occidentalis* (North Spain) contacts with the area of *E. flavicoma* subsp. *flavicoma*, which partly overlaps with the area of *E. spinosa* (BENEDÍ *et al.*, 1997; SMITH *et al.*, 1968; ZECCA *et al.*, 2011).

From the records of the species description, *A. matilei* shows a short altitudinal range (up to 800 m) and it is habitually anoholocyclic, although

an oviparous female was caught, with summer small populations (REMAUDIÈRE & LECLANT, *op. cit.*). In Spain *A. matieli* exhibits a wide altitudinal range, from 110 to 1520 m, and it is anholocyclic with large wintering populations. In low altitude places snow is not frequent and the temperature permits the life of aphids; in high altitude places we have observed that aphids are kept alive between the branches and leaves of the host plant, under several centimeters of snow, showing a peculiar adaptation to a low temperatures.

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