**PNIGALIO NEMATI (WESTWOOD) (HYMENOPTERA: EUPHOPHIDAE) - A NEW PARASITOID OF PONTANIA SPP. (HYMENOPTERA: TENTHREDINIDAE) AND A NEW SPECIES FOR THE FAUNA OF BULGARIA**

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**Abstract**

A new species for the fauna of Bulgaria and the Balkans, *PNigalio nemati* (Westwood) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae) was recorded as a parasitoid of *Pontania proxima* (Lepeletier) and *Pontania viminalis* (L.) (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae). It was found on *Salix fragilis* L. and *Salix alba* L. in 1997 in the vicinities of Sofia. *P. nemati* was a gregarious larval ectoparasitoid, producing 2-3 individuals on a single host. It killed 17.4% and 11.8% of *P. proxima* and *P. viminalis* larvae, respectively.

**Key words:** willows, parasitoid, sawflies, *PNigalio nemati*, *Pontania proxima*, *Pontania viminalis*

**INTRODUCTION**

The larvae of *Pontania* spp. (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae) are connected with different willows (*Salix* spp.). They feed inside thick-walled galls on the leaves. Fifteen species belonging to 5 groups of *Pontania* genus are known in Europe (Pschorn-Walcher, 1982). Nowadays, five species are found in Bulgaria (Vassilev, 1972; Georgiev, 1988; Georgiev et al., 2001).

This note reports a new species for the fauna of the Balkans - *PNigalio nemati* (Westwood, 1838) (Hymenoptera: Eulophidae), established during studies on the parasitoid complex of *Pontania* spp. in Bulgaria.

**MATERIAL AND METHODS**

Biological material - galls with larvae of *Pontania* spp., were collected on different willows in 1997 in the region of Sofia and Kokalyane village, 15 km south-east of Sofia. The probes were brought to the laboratory of the Forest Research Institute in Sofia. They were reared individually in test tubes closed with cotton stoppers at room temperature (18 - 22 °C). The samples were observed daily for emergence of adult hosts or parasitoids. At the end of the observational period, the adult insects were identified, prepared and deposited in the author’s collections.
RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

*P. nematii* was reared from two hosts - *Pontania (Pontania) procima* (Lepeletier, 1823) collected on *Salix fragilis* L. in the region of Kokalyane village and *Pontania (Pontania) viminalis* (Linnaeus, 1758) collected on *Salix alba* L. in the region of Sofia (Table 1).

| Table 1 |
|--------------|---------------|-----------|-------------|
| Insect host  | Locality      | Host-plant | Parasitoid number | Emergence date                |
| *Pontania procima* (Lep.) | Kokalyane | *Salix fragilis* L. | 5 Male 7 Female | 20.07-01.08.1997 |
| *Pontania viminalis* (L.) | Sofia       | *Salix alba* L.  | 1 Male 1 Female | 28.09.1997            |

Analyses of dead sawflies after the parasitoid emergence showed that *P. nematii* was a gregarious external larval parasitoid. Two or three individuals of the parasitoid developed on a single host. The hosts were killed as late stage larvae or nymphs. The mortality of *P. procima* and *P. viminalis* was 17.4% and 11.8%, respectively.

*P. nematii* is connected with *Pontania triandra* Benson, *P. viminalis* and *P. procima* (Boucek, Askew, 1968; Trijapitzin, Kostjukov, 1978). *P. nematii* parasitizes not only *Pontania* species but also *Balanohius salicivorus* (Paykull) (syn. *Curculio salicivorus* Paykull) (Coleoptera: Curculionidae) (Herting, 1973) and *Eurus miconota* Hartig (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae) (Boucek, Askew, 1968; Trijapitzin, Kostjukov, 1978).

In other regions of Bulgaria two ichneumonid species, *Scambus tesarius* (Ratz.) and *Lathrostigus lugens* (Grav.) (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae), were found and reported as parasitoids of *P. viminalis* (Georgiev, Kolarov, 1999).

In conclusion it could be noted that *P. nematii* is Palearctic species known mainly in Western, Central and Northern Europe (Boucek, Askew, 1968; Herting, 1977; Trijapitzin, Kostjukov, 1978; Hansson, 1991). The new record in Bulgaria enlarges its area to the south-east, covering the Balkan Peninsula.

REFERENCES


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