

Lipolexis gracilis Förster, 1862 - new record of an aphid parasitoid from Malta (Hymenoptera, Braconidae, Aphidiinae)

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ABSTRACT. *Lipolexis gracilis*, an aphid parasitoid reared from a species of *Aphis* associated with *Papaver* is newly recorded from Malta. A check-list of the Aphidiinae known from Malta is given.

KEY WORDS. Mediterranean, *Aphis*, *Papaver*.

INTRODUCTION

The aphid parasitoids of Malta have only been marginally studied and in total nine confirmed species are known from this territory (MIFSUD, 1997; MIFSUD & STARÝ, 2009; 2011). During studies related to the entomofauna associated with *Papaver* sp. in Malta, a previously unrecorded aphid parasitoid emerged from a species of *Aphis*. Information on the host preferences and distribution of this species is given below. A check-list of the 10 Aphidiinae now known to occur in the Maltese Islands, together with their aphid hosts and host-plants is given in Table 1.

Lipolexis gracilis Förster, 1862

Material examined. MALTA: Buskett, 2 ♀♀ emerged between 6-10.vi.2012 from *Aphis* sp. on *Papaver* sp., leg. D. Mifsud.

Notes. *Lipolexis gracilis* is widely distributed in the western Palaearctic, mainly in Europe and the Mediterranean basin (Algeria, Spain, France (including Corsica), Monaco, Italy (including Sicily), Greece and the Caucasus (Georgia)) (STARÝ, 1976). It was recently also recorded from Iran and Turkey (RAKHSHANI *et al.*, 2008). The aphid-host range list of *L. gracilis* is rather extensive all over the mentioned area, and includes some important aphid pests such as *Aphis*, *Brachycaudus* and *Myzus* species (STARÝ, 2006; STARÝ & LUKÁŠ, 2009). In south-eastern Europe, *L. gracilis* was recorded as a parasitoid of the following aphids: *Aphis craccivora* Koch, *A. crepidis* (Börner), *A. fabae* Scopoli, *A. gossypii* Glover, *A. intybi* Koch, *A. newtoni* Theobald, *A. urticata* Gmelin, *Dysaphis apiifolia* (Theobald), *D. pyri* (Boyer de Fonscolombe), *Metopeurum fuscoviride* Stroyan and *Myzus cerasi* (Fabricius) (KAVALIERATOS *et al.*, 2004). It is also included in the parasitoid guild of *Aphis ruborum* (Börner) on *Rubus* spp., an important reservoir of aphid parasitoids (HAVELKA *et al.*, 2012).

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Table 1: Check-list of Aphidiinae from Malta with aphid host and aphid host-plant.***Aphidius colemani* Viereck, 1912**Host aphid: *Rhopalosiphum padi*Aphid host-plant: *Triticum* sp.***Aphidius funebris* Mackauer, 1961**Host aphid: *Uroleucon sonchi*Aphid host-plant: *Sonchus* sp.***Aphidius matricariae* Haliday, 1834**Host aphid: *Myzus persicae*Aphid host-plants: *Capparis* sp.; *Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis****Diaeretiella rapae* (M'Intosh, 1855)**Host aphids: *Brevicoryne brassicae*; *Lipaphis erysimi*; *Melanaphis donacis*; *Myzus persicae*Aphid host-plants: *Arundo donax*; *Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*; *Diplotaxis* sp.***Ephedrus persicae* Froggatt, 1904**Host aphid: *Melanaphis donacis*Aphid host-plant: *Arundo donax****Lipolexis gracilis* Förster, 1862**Host aphid: *Aphis* sp.Aphid host-plant: *Papaver* sp.***Lysiphlebus confusus* Tremblay & Eady, 1978**Host aphid: *Dysaphis pyri*Aphid host-plant: *Pyrus communis****Lysiphlebus fabarum* (Marshall, 1896)**Host aphids: *Aphis craccivora*; *Aphis euphorbiae*¹Aphid host-plants: *Ceratonia siliqua*; *Euphorbia* sp.***Pauesia silana* Tremblay, 1969**Host aphid: *Pinus halepensis*Aphid host-plant: *Cinara palestinensis****Praon volucre* (Haliday, 1833)**Host aphid: *Brevicoryne brassicae*; *Myzus persicae*Aphid host-plant: *Brassica oleracea* var. *botrytis*

¹ Material examined. MALTA: Siggiewi, 8.v.2012, 8 ♀♀ of *Lysiphlebus fabarum* were reared from *Aphis euphorbiae* on *Euphorbia* sp., leg. D. Mifsud (unpublished data).

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