

Diplazon laetatorius (Fabricius, 1781) - new record of an Ichneumonidae from Malta (Hymenoptera)

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MIFSUD (2012) provided a check-list of 29 recorded species of Ichneumonidae from the Maltese Islands. A recently collected ichneumonid wasp proved to be a new record for Malta and some information on this species follows.

Diplazon laetatorius (Fabricius, 1781)

Material examined. Malta: Żebbug, 14.ii.2013, 1 ♀, leg. T. Cassar; Żebbug, 5.x.2013, 1 ♀, leg. T. Cassar.

Diplazon laetatorius is a cosmopolitan ichneumonid that reproduces parthenogenetically. Males have only been found rarely in India and North America; females which are thelytokous oviposit in either the egg or the first instar larva of its host syrphids and later emerge from the syrphid pupa (FITTON & ROTHERAY, 1982; GAUD *et al.*, 1997). This ichneumonid parasitizes a wide range of Diptera, especially several genera of aphidophagous syrphid flies (more than 50 host species recorded) most frequently *Episyrphus*, *Metasyrphus* and *Sphaerophoria* (ROUSSE & VILLEMANT, 2012).

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***Cinara tujafilina* (del Guercio, 1909) - a new aphid record for Malta (Aphididae, Lachninae)**

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The aphidofauna of the Maltese archipelago is currently composed of some one hundred recorded species (MIFSUD & PÉREZ HIDALGO, 2011; MIFSUD *et al.* 2011) of which only six species are associated with conifers. Of these, three species belong to the genus *Cinara*: *C. maghrebica*, *C. palaestinensis* (both recorded on *Pinus halepensis*) and *C. cupressi* (recorded on *Cupressus sempervirens*). Identification of a recently captured single alate viviparous female of *Cinara*, based on BINAZZI & SCHEURER (2009) and NIETO NAFRÍA *et al.*, (2003), proved to be *Cinara* (*Cupressobium*) *tujafilina* (del Guercio, 1909), a species not previously recorded from Malta.

***Cinara tujafilina* (del Guercio, 1909)**

Material examined. MALTA: Żejtun, 19.vii.2013, alate vagrant, leg. D. Mifsud.

The alate (Fig. 1a) of this species is 1.7 to 3.5 mm long and live specimens are generally of a reddish-brown coloration with a dorsal pattern of bluish-white wax, and two dark brown divergent curved bands running from head to siphunculi level (BLACKMAN & EASTOP, 2013; BINAZZI & SCHEURER, 2009). Antennal segment III is 1.3 to 1.4 times longer than the basal diameter of siphunculi and

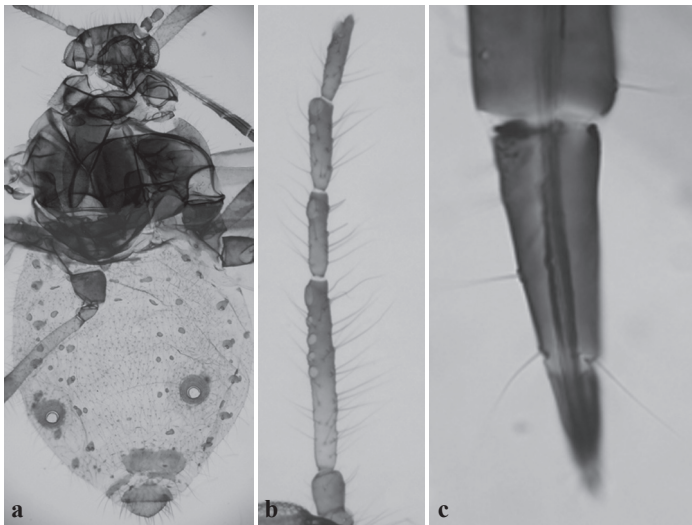


Figure 1: *Cinara* (*Cupressobium*) *tujafilina*. **a:** habitus of alate (specimen from Malta); **b:** antenna; **c:** apical rostral segments.

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antennal segments III, IV and V of alatae have 4-6, 1-2 and 1 secondary sensoria, respectively (Fig. 1b). Rostral segment IV measures 0.15 to 0.17 mm in length and is 1.9 to 2 times as long as rostral segment V. (Fig. 1c). The species lives on several genera of Cupressaceae (such as *Callitris*, *Chamaecyparis*, *Cupressus*, *Juniperus*, *Libocedrus*, *Thuja* and others) and according to BLACKMAN & EASTOP (2010) is virtually cosmopolitan and apparently almost entirely anholocyclic, but sexuals (ovipara and males) have been recorded from Iran and Kirghizia (REMAUDIÈRE & BINAZZI, 2003; ZHURAVLEV, 2003). The presence of *Cinara tujafilina* in Malta was expected since it is widely distributed in many Mediterranean countries (NIETO NAFRÍA *et al.*, 2012) and its host-plants are widely cultivated in Malta.

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