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Austroagallia avicula (Ribaut, 1935) (Hemiptera, Auchenorrhyncha, Cicadellidae) – a new record from the Maltese Islands

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During a survey on the Auchenorrhyncha fauna of Gozo some specimens belonging to *Austroagallia avicula* (Ribaut, 1935) were collected from Ramla, a Natura 2000 site. In a previous paper on the Maltese Auchenorrhynca fauna (D'Urso & Mifsud, 2012) three specimens of the above mentioned species from Ramla were erroneously included in *Austroagallia sinuata* (Mulsant & Rey, 1855). At the present state of knowledge, *A. avicula* is reported only from Gozo and *A. sinuata* only from various habitats in Malta.

Austroagallia avicula (Ribaut, 1935)

(Fig. 1)

Material examined: Maltese Islands, Gozo, Ramla, 28.i.1997, 2 ♂♂ & 1 ♀, leg. D. Mifsud (as *A. sinuata*); Ramla, 5.ii.2015, 2 ♂♂ & 11 ♀♀, on *Ononis*, leg. V. D'Urso & D. Mifsud.

Figure 1: Habitus photograph of *Austroagallia avicula* (female). Scale bar = 1 mm

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Notes: The species is currently known from southern France, Sicily, Sardinia, Near East, Asia and from northern Africa. Adults were collected on *Ononis* sp. in Sicily and in Gozo, mostly in coastal habitats. A phytoplasma belonging to 16SrII group was detected in *A. avicula* in Oman, in alfalfa fields infected with witches' broom phytoplasma but that phytoplasma was distinct from lime witches'broom phytoplasma, the most commonly found phytoplasma in the Sultanate (Khan *et al*., 2003).

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