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

Thomas CASSAR

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; GAULD 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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1 Speranza, Triq il-Qubbajt, Żebbug, ZBG 1182, Malta. E-mail: thomas.m.cassar@gmail.com
Cinara tujafilina (del Guercio, 1909) - a new aphid record for Malta (Aphididae, Lachninae)

David MIFSUD¹ & Nicolás PÉREZ HIDALGO²

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)


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.

¹ University of Malta, Junior College, Department of Biology, Msida MSD 1251, Malta. E-mail: david.a.mifsud@um.edu.mt
² Department of Biodiversity and Environmental Management, University of León, E-24071, León, Spain. E-mail: nperh@unileon.es
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 Nafria et al., 2012) and its host-plants are widely cultivated in Malta.

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