

Phanacis urospermi (Kieffer, 1901) (Hymenoptera, Cynipidae) – an interesting record from Malta

David MIFSUD¹, Michael ZERAFA² & Juli PUJADE-VILLAR³

The only Cynipidae so far recorded from Malta is *Diplolepis eglanteriae* (Hartig, 1840) which induces smooth pea-like galls on *Rosa sempervirens* L. (MIFSUD, 2016). Recently, one of us (MZ) reared a species of Cynipidae from a stem gall of *Urospermum picroides* (L.) F.W. Schmidt. Some information on this rare species is provided here under.

Phanacis urospermi (Kieffer, 1901)

Aulax urospermi Kieffer, 1901: 542

Timaspis urospermi Kieffer, 1903: 94

Phanacis urospermi Melika, 2006:185

Material examined: Malta, Buskett, 11-17.iii.2016, 3 ♂♂ & 8 ♀♀ exs., reared from stem gall of *Urospermum picroides* (Fig. 1), leg. M. Zerafa. Material is housed in the respective collections of the authors.

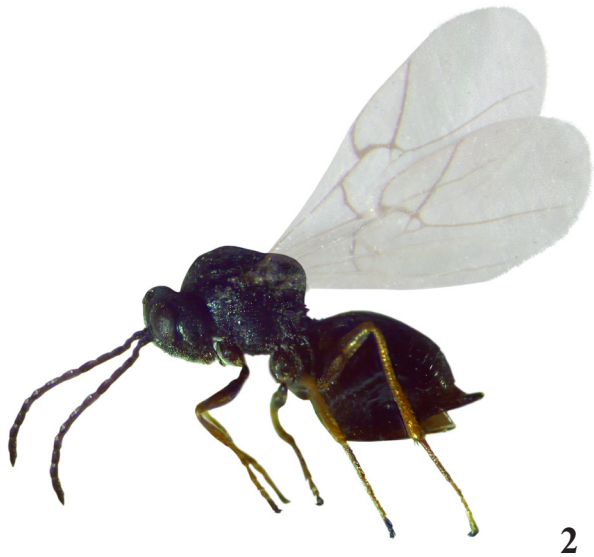


Figure 1: Dried gall of *Urospermum picroides* from Buskett (Malta) from where *Phanacis urospermi* emerged. **Figure 2:** *Phanacis urospermi* adult female.

¹ Institute of Earth Systems, Division of Rural Sciences and Food Technology, University of Malta, Msida MSD 2010, Malta. E-mail: david.a.mifsud@um.edu.mt

² 16, 'Agape', Triq l-Imagħzel, Naxxar NXR 3660, Malta. E-mail: family_zerafa@hotmail.com

³ Universitat de Barcelona, Facultat de Biologia, Departament de Biologia Evolutiva, Ecologia i Ciències Ambientals, Avda Diagonal, 645, 08028 Barcelona, Catalonia. E-mail: jpujade@ub.edu

Notes: *Phanacis urospermi* (Hymenoptera, Cynipidae), is a gall wasp that induces galls on stems of *Urospermum picroides* (Asteraceae). It is the only known Cynipidae which induces galls in *Urospermum* genus. This species was until now known only from four countries in the western Mediterranean with the following records: Italy (KIEFFER, 1901; 1903), Portugal (TAVARES, 1905), Morocco (MIMEUR, 1949) and Spain (BELLIDO *et al.*, 2003; NIEVES-ALDREY, 2003). NIEVES-ALDREY (2003) provided a morphological description of the last instar larva, the adults (both male and female) and the gall and he also discussed taxonomical affinities of this species.

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