

Dasineura papaveris (Winnertz, 1853) - new record of a gall-midge from Malta (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae)

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The gall-midges (Diptera, Cecidomyiidae) of the Maltese islands were reviewed by SKUHRAVÁ *et al.* (2002) who included 36 species. Since then, the only other work mentioning Maltese gall-midges was that of HABER & MIFSUD & (2007) who provided additional information and distributional data for one previously recorded species, *Resseliella oleisuga* (Targioni Tozzetti, 1887). Recently a sample of gall-midge larvae infesting flowers of *Papaver* sp. from Malta was given to the present author for identification. Since the genus *Papaver* did not appear in the check list of host-plant records for the 36 known species of gall-midges from Malta, the larvae were reared to obtain adults which are a prerequisite for correct species identification. The species proved to be a new record for Malta for which some information is provided below.

Dasineura papaveris (Winnertz, 1853)

Material examined. MALTA: Balzan, 30.iii.2011, orange larvae in flowers of *Papaver* sp., leg. A. Degiorgio. Adults (4 ♂♂ & 6 ♀♀) emerged between 21-30 April, 2011. Adults and larvae are conserved in 75% alcohol in the private collection of the author.

This species is known to produce galls in the seed capsules of *Papaver* spp., where lamellae of the capsule become swollen as a direct result of the presence of these gall-midge larvae. The species is widely distributed in Europe where it has been recorded from the following countries: Austria, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Macedonia, Poland, Sardinia, Serbia, Sicily, Slovakia, Slovenia, The Netherlands, and UK. The species is also known from Turkey, Ukraine, Israel, Kazakhstan, and more recently it was also found in Armenia (recent record, L. Mirumjan, 2011) (SKUHRAVÁ, 1986; SKUHRAVÁ & SKUHRAVÝ, 2010; Skuhrová, M., *pers. comm.*) Fig. 1 provides a map with the currently know distribution of this species.

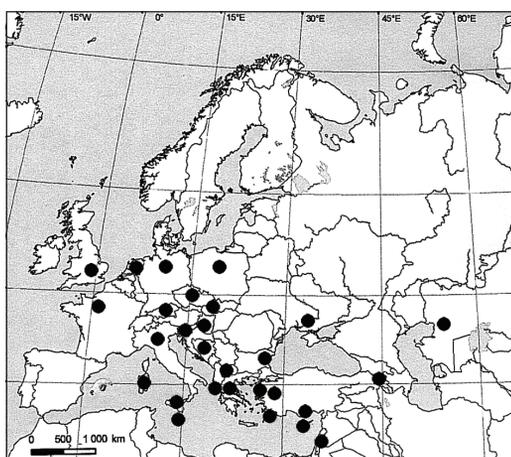


Fig. 1: Global distribution of *Dasineura papaveris* (elaborated by M. Skuhrová)

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