



Descriptions of two new species of Pseudococcidae (Homoptera: Coccinea) and additions to the scale insect fauna of Bulgaria

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Abstract

Two new species of mealybug, *Balanococcus balkanicus* Gavrilov **sp. n.** and *Phenacoccus alibotush* Gavrilov **sp. n.** (Homoptera: Coccinea: Pseudococcidae) are described and illustrated. In addition 10 species new to the Bulgarian fauna are noted: *Atrococcus paludinus* (Green), *Balanococcus boratynskii* Williams, *Trionymus radicum* (Newstead), *Coccira comari* (Künow), *Heliococcus destructor* Borchsenius, *Peliococcus balteatus* (Green), *Phenacoccus pumilus* Kiritschenko, *Rhizoecus halophilus* (Hardy), *Phyllostroma myrtilli* (Kaltenbach), and *Lecanopsis clodiensis* (Pellizzari). A new detailed figure of *Heliococcus destructor* Borchsenius is given. In addition, *A. (Eriococcus) melnikensis* (Hodgson & Trencheva (2008) is here synonymised with *Acanthococcus aceris* Signoret (1875), **syn. nov.**

Key words: scale insects, fauna of Bulgaria, new species

Introduction

Up to now, the territory of Bulgaria has been comparatively well-studied coccidologically in comparison with neighboring countries and 115 species from 9 families have been recorded (Tzalev, 1968; Kozár *et al.*, 1979; Kozár, 1985; Hodgson & Trencheva, 2008). However, during collecting trips in Bulgaria in June–July 2008 and June 2009, I found several species not previously recorded from this country plus some species previously unknown for the entire Balkan region. In addition, two species new to science were also found. These were mainly species which inhabited alpine herbs in the high mountains. A brief list of other species previously noted from Bulgaria, but from new localities is also included.

All species noted below were collected by author, excluding *Lecanopsis clodiensis* (Pellizzari), collected by Dr. Nikolai Simov (National Museum of Natural History, Sofia); all material is preserved in Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, including the type specimens of the new species.

Balanococcus Williams, 1962

Type species *Ripersia scirpi* Green.

The genus comprises more than 30 Palearctic and Australasian species. The Palearctic fauna was revised recently by Danzig (1998) and Kwon *et al.* (2003) and represented by a compact group of morphologically similar species inhabiting mainly the leaf sheaths of different grasses. The adult females of Palearctic *Balanococcus* spp. are similar in their morphology and mode of life to females of the widely distributed *Trionymus* Berg, but differ in *Balanococcus* having diagnostically-shaped tubular ducts, with a deep collar covering the duct, and some other small characters, such as short antennae, comparatively large hind coxae and poorly developed ostioles.