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A new genus of Macrosiphini Wilson, 1910 (1887) (Hemiptera: Aphididae) from *Rhododendron* in Turkey

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Abstract

Rhododendraphis tuatayae gen. n., sp. n. living on *Rhododendron* sp. (Ericaceae) in Turkey is described based on apterous viviparous females. The new genus is morphologically most similar to *Rostratusaphis* Fang and Qiao, 2009, but differs in several important characters. Differences between the new genus and other aphid genera with a spinulose second tarsal segment living on *Rhododendron* spp. worldwide are described. Type specimens are deposited at the Natural History Museum of London (BMNH).

Key words: *Rhododendraphis tuatayae*, new genus, new species, *Rhododendron*, Turkey

Introduction

Rhododendron spp. (Ericaceae) are hosts to species in 19 aphid genera, and 10 of these genera including 35 species have a specific association with this host (Holman 2009; Blackman & Eastop 2014). The genera specifically associated with *Rhododendron* spp. are: *Chaetomyzus* A.K. Ghosh & D.N. Raychaudhuri 1962, *Ericolophium* Tao, 1963, *Hillerislambertia* Basu 1968, *Illinoia* Wilson, 1910, *Indiaphis* Basu, 1969, *Indomasonaphis* Verma, 1971, *Neoamphorophora* Mason, 1924, *Rostratusaphis* Fang & Qiao, 2009, *Sinomegoura* Takahashi, 1960, and *Vesiculaphis* Del Guercio, 1911 (Holman 2009; Blackman & Eastop 2014).

Illinoia species are distributed worldwide, while *Neoamphorophora* species are holarctic. *Chaetomyzus*, *Ericolophium*, *Sinomegoura* and *Vesiculaphis* species are distributed in Asia. *Indomasonaphis* species are recorded only in the Oriental region, while the distribution of *Hillerislambertia*, *Indiaphis* and *Rostratusaphis* species is restricted to India and China respectively (Holman 2009; Blackman & Eastop 2014).

Blackman & Eastop (2006), in their treatment of *Neoamphorophora* (p.1249), noted an undescribed species from Turkey in the collection of the Natural History Museum (BMNH) that “probably requires the creation of a new genus”. The new genus *Rhododendraphis* is here described, with *Rhododendraphis tuatayae* sp. n. as a type species on *Rhododendron* sp. from north-eastern Turkey, based on apterous viviparous females sampled by Dr. Nazife Tuatay in 1971.

Rhododendraphis gen. n.

Type species: *Rhododendraphis tuatayae* sp. n.

Description. Apterous viviparous female. Body small, elliptical with 6-segmented antennae, antennae shorter than length of body. A few secondary rhinaria arranged distally on antennal segment III. Antennal segment III with imbrications on the distal 1/2 or 2/3. Processus terminalis short, length of processus terminalis/basal part of

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