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A new species of *Aphis* Linnaeus (Hemiptera, Aphididae) living on *Teucrium polium* L. (Lamiaceae)

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Abstract

Aphis polii sp. n. living on *Teucrium polium* L. (Lamiaceae) is described, based on apterous and alate viviparous females and oviparous females. It has been collected from seventeen localities in mainland France, Corsica, Italy, Ukraine, Lebanon and Iran. The new species is similar to two other *Aphis* species that feed specifically on plants of the genus *Teucrium*, but has a relatively longer ultimate rostral segment. Characters are provided to discriminate between the three *Teucrium*-feeding species, and to distinguish the new species from other morphologically similar *Aphis* species that feed on Lamiaceae. Type specimens are deposited in the Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN), the UMR Centre de Biologie pour la Gestion des Populations, Montpellier, France and the Natural History Museum, London, UK (BMNH).

Key words: Aphid, Aphidini, *Aphis polii*, Palaearctic

Introduction

The genus *Aphis* Linnaeus, 1758 is represented by about 580 species worldwide (Remaudière & Remaudière 1997; Favret 2015). Most species live on shrubs and herbs, with relatively few on trees. The species belonging to this genus are mostly distributed in the northern hemisphere, with a few native to South America, New Zealand and Australia (Blackman & Eastop 2015).

Teucrium spp. (Lamiaceae) are hosts to 13 species in 6 aphid genera, but only two species of *Aphis*, *A. alienus* Theobald, 1915 and *A. teucarii* (Börner, 1942), have been described that have specific associations with this host plant genus (Holman 2009; Blackman & Eastop 2015). *Teucrium polium* L., or Felty Germander, is a common and well-known herbaceous plant in the Mediterranean region and Middle East, and is used traditionally in Iranian and Turkish medicine. In recent years it has been the subject of much phytochemical and pharmacological research (for a review see Bahramikia & Yazdanparast 2012). An aphid that feeds specifically on this plant is therefore of some interest. Such an aphid has in fact been collected from several countries and recognised as a distinct species by eminent aphidologists (D. Hille Ris Lambers, G. Remaudière, F. Leclant, J. Holman—all now deceased), but has never been the subject of a proper description.

Aphis polii sp. n. is here described, based on apterous and alate viviparous females and oviparous females in collections from France (including Corsica), Italy, Ukraine, Lebanon and Iran.

Blackman & Eastop (2006), in their key to apterae of aphids on *Teucrium* (p. 952), included this species as *Aphis* sp. on *T. polium*, Italy, etc. (BMNH colln). Leclant (1978) had previously provided brief information about its coloration in life, host plant, life cycle, and distribution (p. 79), as well as photographs of an apterous viviparous female and of a specimen that he regarded as a fundatrix (p. 79 bis). He headed his brief account *Aphis polii* Remaudière et Leclant n. s., but no description was published, and it has until now remained as a “nomen nudum”.