

A first record of *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802 (Insecta: Strepsiptera: Stylopidae) in Belarus

Первая находка *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802 (Insecta: Strepsiptera: Stylopidae) в Беларуси

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Ключевые слова: *Stylops melittae*, фаунистика, Беларусь.

Abstract. *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802 (Strepsiptera: Stylopidae) is firstly recorded in Gomel Region of Belarus near Uza village as a parasite of bee *Andrena* (*Taeniandrena*) *ovatula* (Kirby, 1802) in spring 2016. Brief information on distribution and ecology of the species is given.

Резюме. Веерокрылое *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802, вид из семейства Stylopidae, найденный в Гомельской области в окрестностях деревни Уза на *Andrena* (*Taeniandrena*) *ovatula* (Kirby, 1802) весной 2016 года, впервые отмечен для фауны Беларуси. Приведены данные по распространению и экологии вида.

Introduction

Members of the order Strepsiptera display highly peculiar morphology and lifestyles. They are small to medium sized insects (1.0–7.5 mm long) exhibiting extreme sexual dimorphism [Kinzelbach, 1971; Kathirithamby, 1989]. Free living and flying males have twisted hind wings, while their fore wings are reduced to club-like appendages. Usually endoparasitic and wingless females are known to colonize members of seven insect orders [Kathirithamby, 1989, 2009]. Approximately 600 Strepsiptera species are known to exist globally [Kathirithamby, 2002; Kinzelbach, Pohl, 2003], while 30 species from 7 families are known in Europe [Pohl, 2010; Soon et al., 2011].

The order Strepsiptera in Belarus hasn't been studied, data on the record of one species *Stenocranophilus anomalocerus* Pierce, 1918 from the family Halictophagidae, parasitoid of *Liburnia* Stel, 1866 (Hemiptera: Delphacidae), has been published previously [Medvedev, 1965]. Continuing the research, *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802 has been found in Belarus. Both the genus *Stylops* Kirby, 1802 and the family

Stylopidae Kirby, 1913 are cosmopolitan [Kathirithamby, 1989].

Results

Strepsiptera
Stylopidae Kirby, 1913
Stylops melittae Kirby, 1802

Fig. 1.

Material. Republic of Belarus, Gomel Area, near Uza village, 14.05.2016, A.M. Ostrovsky leg. et det. — 1♂ of *Andrena* (*Taeniandrena*) *ovatula* (Kirby, 1802) styloped by female of *S. melittae*.

Distribution. Widely distributed in Europe and extending to the Near East and North Africa, currently known from Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canary Islands, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Danish mainland, Estonia, Finland, French mainland, Germany, Great Britain, Greek mainland, Hungary, Italian mainland, Macedonia, Montenegro, Northwest European Russia, Norwegian mainland, Poland, Portuguese mainland, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spanish mainland, Sweden, Switzerland, The Netherlands [Pohl, 2010; Soon et al., 2012].

S. melittae is a typical parasite of many *Andrena* Fabricius, 1775 (Hymenoptera: Apidae) species [Kinzelbach, 1978; Kathirithamby, 1989]. However, from Belarus only *A. (T.) ovatula* has been recorded as its host. In Belarus *A. (T.) ovatula* is a widespread and common species.

Conclusion

The family, genus and species are formally new to Belorussia's list of Strepsiptera: Stylopidae, *Stylops* Kirby, 1802, and *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802. From Belarus only *A. (T.) ovatula* has been recorded as its host of *S. melittae*.



Fig. 1. A, B — *Andrena (Taeniandrena) ovatula* (Kirby, 1802): specimen (male) stylotized by a female of *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802; C — *S. melittae*, female.

Рис. 1. А, В — *Andrena (Taeniandrena) ovatula* (Kirby, 1802): экземпляр (самец), стилопизированный самкой *Stylops melittae* Kirby, 1802; С — *S. melittae*, самка.

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