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Waxiella mimosae (Signoret) (Hemiptera, Coccoidea, Coccidae) and its parasitoid *Anicetus africanus* (Girault) (Hymenoptera, Encyrtidae) newly recorded from Israel

Yair Ben-Dov, Emilio Guerrieri

La découverte d'une nouvelle espèce de la série *guyanensis*, en sympatrie avec *P. geniculatus* et *P. corossoniensis* dans le bassin du rio Napo, est en accord avec l'écologie de ces espèces qui affectionnent la forêt primaire très arrosée ; en Guyane française, également on trouve ensemble ces deux mêmes espèces et *P. dorlinsis*, cela risquant d'ailleurs de compliquer la tâche pour qui s'intéressera à la réhabilitation de *P. guyanensis* Floch & Abonnenc.

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Yair BEN-DOV & Emilio GUERRIERI. – ***Waxiella mimosae*** **(Signoret) (Hemiptera, Coccoidea, Coccidae) and its parasitoid** ***Anicetus africanus*** **(Girault) (Hymenoptera, Encyrtidae) newly recorded from Israel**

Wax scale insects, comprising about 150 species and subspecies, are grouped in the subfamily Ceroplastinae in the soft scale insect family Coccidae (DE LOTTO, 1965; GIMPEL *et al.,* 1974; BEN-DOV, 1986). Most species of wax scales were placed in the senior genus *Ceroplastes* Gray, while some additional genera were introduced, namely, *Gascardia* Targioni Tozzetti, *Vinsonia* Signoret, and *Waxiella* De Lotto. The 20 species and subspecies, which have been assigned to the genus *Waxiella*, are distributed mainly in the Afrotropical region (DE LOTTO, 1969, 1971; BEN-DOV, 1993, 2008).

In this note we record for the first time in Israel, the wax scale *Waxiella mimosae* (Signoret) and its parasitoid *Anicetus africanus* (Girault). *Waxiella mimosae,* which was originally described from Egypt, has been recorded also from widely-separated territories all in the Afrotropical region, namely, South Africa (ANNECKE, 1967), Angola (ALMEIDA, 1973), Mauritania (BALACHOWSKY & MATILE-FERRERO, 1971), Algeria (BALACHOWSKY, 1934), and Saudi Arabia (MATILE-FERRERO, 1988).

Waxiella mimosae is found so far in Israel at the southern Arava Valley, which is part of the Great Rift Valley. The Arava Valley stretches from Eilat city at the south to the Dead Sea in the north. The climate is very arid with an average annual rainfall of 20 millimetres and with large annual variations in temperature. The mean maximal temperature fluctuates between 39.9°C in July and 20.8°C in January. The average annual relative humidity ranges from 15% (in June) to 33 % in December. We record *W. mimosae* from two species of *Acacia,* as well as on the green semiparasitic mistletoe *Loranthus acaciae* (Loranthaceae), which is a common parasite of *Acacia* trees in this region.

Waxiella mimosae has two annual generations in the Arava valley. No males were observed, and we assume that this species reproduces parthenogenetically. Adult females of the first generation appear in March, and reproduction of the second generation takes place in October.

Anicetus africanus has been reported from *W. mimosae* in South Africa by ANNECKE (1967), who suggested that the earlier record by MERCET (1925) of this parasitoid from *Ceroplastes africana* in Egypt needs further confirmation. *Anicetus africanus* is a distinctive parasitoid whose females can be identified by a combination of characters as reported by ANNECKE (1967): general colour orange weakly metallic on thorax and antenna, these latter strongly expanded and flattened with pedicel overlapping the first funicular segment; ovipositor strongly exerted, the exerted part 0.5x as long as the gaster. The rate of parasitization in a sample collected on 19.x.2008 has reached 30 % with a balanced sex ratio (1:1). In about 80% of the not-parasitized females, encapsulation bodies were found.

Material examined: *Waxiella mimosae*: all specimens collected in Israel, and deposited in the Coccoidea Collection, Department of Entomology, Bet Dagan, Israel. Yotvata, 10.iii.2008, *Acacia tortilis* (Fabaceae) (C-4428); Yotvata, 10.iii.2008, *Loranthus acaciae* (Loranthaceae) (C-4429); Yotvata, 10.vi.2008, *L. acaciae* (C-4474); Yotvata, 22.vii.2008, *L. acaciae* (C-4489); Nahal Qetura, 22.iv.1986, *A. raddiana* (C-4494); Yotvata, 19.x.2008, *L. acaciae* (C-4539). *Anicetus africanus*: Israel, Yotvata 19.x.2008 ex *Waxiella mimosae* on *Loranthus acaciae* parasitizing *Acacia tortilis* (Y. Ben Dov). Specimens of *A. africanus* are deposited in the collection of Hymenoptera at the Dipartimento di Entomologia e Zoologia Agraria Filippo Silvestri", Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II" Portici, Naples, Italy and at The Natural History Museum, London, UK.

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