

A new prey record for the solitary wasp *Gorytes laticinctus* (Lepeletier) (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae)

J. C. FELTON

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Abstract: The only species recorded as prey of the solitary wasp *Gorytes laticinctus* (Lepeletier) is the spittle bug *Philaenus spumarius* (Linnaeus). To this can now be added *Aphrophora corticea* (Germar) on the basis of a single capture of predator with prey in the Hoge Veluwe, Gelderland.

K. Doormanlaan 197, 2283 AM Rijswijk.

Introduction

The species of the solitary wasp genus *Gorytes* Latreille are known to prey on Homoptera. Bohart & Menke (1976) state that "in general a species of *Gorytes* selects its prey from a single family of Homoptera and often (from) a single species or genus". *Gorytes laticinctus* (Lepeletier) is a widespread but not common species of the genus in N.W. Europe. It is known to prey on spittle bugs but the only species recorded is *Philaenus spumarius* (Linnaeus) (Evans, 1966, quoted by Bohart & Menke, 1976; Lomholdt, 1975; Lefeber, 1979; Richards, 1980).

In fact the actual identification of *Ph. spumarius* as prey of *G. laticinctus* has only rarely been published, perhaps only once. Thus, Lefeber (loc. cit.) quotes Friese (1926) as the original source for this association while Richards (loc. cit.) even casts doubt on the association, writing: "an old record is of *Philaenus* as prey but the determination of the wasp was doubtful." In his definitive review of the ethology of sand wasps, Evans (1966, as quoted by Bohart & Menke, 1976) only lists *Philaenus spumarius* as prey. Whether these last two quotations refer to the original publication of Friese, I have been unable to check. However that may be, the association of *Ph. spumarius* as prey of *G. laticinctus* is generally accepted.

Observations

On 25.vii.1985 in an open sandy area among pine trees just south of the Kröller-Müller Museum in the Hoge Veluwe (EIS: matrix number 195213), I captured a solitary wasp with prey. The wasp proved to be *G. laticinctus* which is not recorded by Lefeber (loc. cit.) from that precise locality but is known from Putten to the N.W. The prey proved to be a male of *Aphrophora corticea* (Germar), in the same subfamily (Aphrophorinae) as *Philaenus*. W. H. Gravestein, who kindly identified the specimen, informs me that *A. corticea* was first recorded from The Netherlands in 1958 (Cobben & Gravestein), but is now widely distributed in the Hoge Veluwe. The species is associated with coniferous trees of the genera *Abies*, *Picea* and *Pinus*. It is univoltine, overwintering in the egg stage or as larvae on low herbs such as *Vaccinium myrtillus* (L.).

It would thus seem that *G. laticinctus* falls within the generalization of Bohart & Menke (loc. cit.) quoted above, but that it is not restricted only to *Ph. spumarius*. However, the taking *A. corticea* would not seem to require great behavioral adaptation.

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