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A new coccid - eating gall midge from Israel

by

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This paper describes a gall midge the larvae of which prey upon the Coccids *Ceroplastes floridensis* Comstock and *Lepidosaphes beckii* (Newm.) on Citrus in Israel. Two male midges were collected by Mr. M. David ROSEN during a survey of parasites of Citrus pests of Israel. He sent them to Mr. U. GERSON (The Hebrew University of Jerusalem) who in turn kindly sent them to the author for identification.

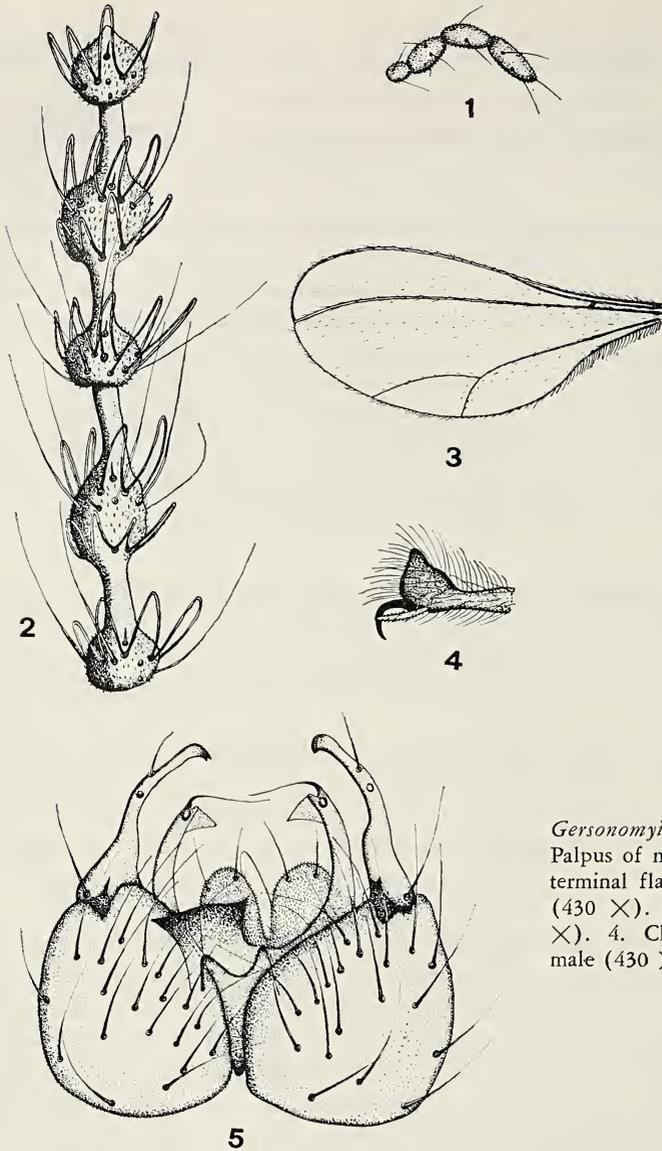
The correct supergeneric placing of this midge is rather difficult. According to the keys of FELT (1) and MANI (2) it belongs to the tribe Porricondylariae because it has a crossvein uniting the subcosta and the third wing vein. But it has three circumfila in the binodose flagellar segments as do midges of the tribe Itonididinae, subtribe Trifila. Because the crossvein is relatively inconspicuous, especially in mounted specimens, the author considers it better to place this midge in the tribe Itonididinae, subtribe Trifila. This, however, means that it is unlike any previously described genus in this subtribe, and the new genus *Gersonomyia* has been erected, in honour of Mr. GERSON because of his interest in the gall midge fauna of Israel.

Gersonomyia gen. nov.

Body reddish brown. Eyes confluent above. Palpi with four segments. Antennae with two basal segments and ten flagellar segments; first and second flagellar segments fused; all flagellar segments, except the terminal one, binodose with three regular circumfila, two whorls of setae and two stout spines. Wings hyaline with long hairs on the margin, third vein reaching the costa beyond the apex of the wing, united with subcosta by inconspicuous crossvein. Claws simple on all the legs.

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Gersonomyia filifera sp. nov. 1. Palpus of male (215 \times). 2. Three terminal flagellar segments of male (430 \times). 3. Wing of male (215 \times). 4. Claw and empodium of male (430 \times). 5. Genitalia of male (430 \times).

Genitalia with spatulate dorsal plate; ventral plate with narrow V-shaped emargination, lobes broadly rounded; basal clasp segments broadly expanded, distal clasp segments slender and tapering from the middle; harpes slender and slightly curved with a triangular lobe apically and a thread-like extremity.

Genotype: *Gersonomyia filifera* sp. n.

Gersonomyia filifera sp. n.

Male — Body about 1 mm long, dark brown. Eyes confluent above. Palpi (fig. 1) with four segments, thickly ornamented with microtrichia and sparsely

setose; first segment short, about 1.4 times as long as broad; second segment about 1.7 times as long as broad; third segment about 2.3 times as long as broad and fourth segment 2.7 times as long as broad. Antennae (fig. 2) with two basal and ten flagellar segments; each flagellar segment, except the terminal one, with subglobular basal node and distal enlarged node; basal node bearing one regular circumfilum, one whorl of setae and one subapical stout spine; distal node bearing two regular circumfila, one whorl of setae and one subapical stout spine; the basal and the distal nodes are separated by a long stem and each distal node bears a long neck; both nodes with microtrichia; apical flagellar segment consisting of one subconical node, bearing one circumfilum, one whorl of setae and one subapical stout spine. Wings (fig. 3) hyaline, with long hairs on the margin; the membrane is covered with slender, curved setae; third vein unites with the costa beyond the apex of the wing; subcosta united with the third vein by a relatively inconspicuous crossvein; fifth vein forked. Legs (fig. 4) densely haired; claws simple on all the legs, evenly curved, about as long as empodium. Genitalia (fig. 5) with stout, broadly expanded basal clasp segments, thickly clothed with microtrichia and long setae; distal clasp segments slender, more glabrous, tapering from the middle, ornamented with two long setae (one on basal part and one on distal part) with a circular sense organ between, and toothed apically; harpes long and slender, slightly curved, each with a triangular lobe and circular sense organ apically and a thread-like extremity; dorsal plate with narrow, V-shaped emargination, lobes broadly rounded, densely clothed with microtrichia and each with two long setae; style stout and longer than ventral plate.

Holotype: Cecid. 2366a and 2366b in the NIJVELDT collection. One male, sampled by Mr. David ROSEN from the coccid *Ceroplastes floridensis* Comstock on Citrus near Kfar Hess, central coastal plain, Israel, 26.VI.1962.

Allotype: Cecid. 2367 in the NIJVELDT collection. One male, sampled by Mr. David ROSEN from the coccid *Lepidosaphes beckii* (Newm.) on Citrus near Mikveh, central coastal plain, Israel, 26.VI.1961.

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References

- (1) FELT, E. P., 1925, Key to Gall Midges (A resumé of Studies I—VII, Itonididae). *Bull. N.Y. St. Mus.*, no. 257 : 3—239.
- (2) MANI, M. S., 1946, Study on Indian Itonididae (Cecidomyiidae : Diptera) Key to the genera from the Oriental region. *Indian J. Ent.*, 7 : 189—235.

Papilio machaon L. (Lep., Papilionidae). In juli 1964 verzamelde ik gedurende ongeveer drie weken in het Leudal, nabij Roermond. In dat gebied werd de soort vrij geregeld gezien. Om een indruk te krijgen van de talrijkheid bezocht ik de klaver- en lucernevelden in de omtrek en op ieder veld werden 3 of 4 exemplaren aangetroffen. De soort was dus niet gewoon in die tijd.

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