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*Fauna of Sarnena Sredna Gora Mts, Part 2*

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## Notes on jumping plant-lice (Hemiptera, Psylloidea) from the Sarnena Gora Mountains

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**Abstract.** Jumping plant-lice (Hemiptera, Sternorrhyncha, Psylloidea) are small phloem-feeding insects. With about 400 species distributed in Europe, the European fauna is considered well-studied. However, information on psyllids occurring in the eastern Balkan Peninsula is insufficient. So far, less than a hundred psyllid species are known for Bulgaria, most of which have been reported only from a few regions. Knowledge on the psyllid fauna of the Sarnena Sredna Gora Mountains in central Bulgaria is sparse and relatively old, with only a handful of recorded species. The aim of the present study is to summarise the information on Psylloidea from this region, including recently collected material kept in the zoological collection of Sofia University. A total of 17 species were found of which 7 species had been previously published and 10 species from 3 families are new to the region: *Aphalara freji* Burckhardt & Lauterer, 1997 (Aphalaridae), *Diaphorina lycii* Loginova, 1978, *Arytaina maculata* (Löw, 1886), *Cacopsylla bidens* (Šulc, 1907), *Cacopsylla melanoneura* (Foerster, 1848), *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zetterstedt, 1838), *Livilla horvathi* (Scott, 1879), *Psylla foersteri* Flor, 1861 (all Psyllidae), *Bactericera modesta* (Foerster, 1848) and *Trioza rotundata* Flor, 1861 (Trioziidae).

**Key words:** Psyllids, the Balkans, Bulgaria.

### Introduction

Jumping-plant lice or psyllids are a group of phytophagous, phloem-feeding insects belonging to the suborder Sternorrhyncha (Hemiptera) with about 4000 described species worldwide (Burckhardt *et al.* 2021). They are usually highly host-specific. From Bulgaria, 99 species have been reported; however, the group is considered poorly known. Information on the psyllid fauna of the Sarnena Gora Mountains in central Bulgaria is sparse and relatively old, with only a few psyllid records. At the beginning of the last century, Joakimov (1909) published the first data on the jumping-plant lice in Bulgaria, including several species collected in the Sarnena Gora Mountains. Harizanov (1964) and Klimaszewski (1965) reported three more species. This brings the number of psyllid species published to date from Sarnena Gora to seven. The region was occasionally visited by the authors in recent years during their faunistic work on the Psylloidea of Bulgaria. The aim of the present study, which is part of a larger initiative on the faunistic survey of the Sarnena Gora Mountains (Georgiev *et al.* 2020), is to summarise the information on Psylloidea from this region, including the recently collected material.

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## Material and Methods

Recent material was collected using an entomological sweep net. Specimens were dry mounted and stored in the entomological collection of Sofia University. Identification was mainly based on Burckhardt (1984), Burckhardt & Hodkinson (1986), Burckhardt & Lauterer (1997a,b, 2002, 2006), Hodkinson & Hollis (1987) and Ossiannilsson (1992). The material of Psylloidea from the collection of Joakimov, kept in the National Museum of Natural History of the Bulgarian Academy of Sciences in Sofia, was reviewed, but the specimens from Sarnena Gora published by Joakimov (1909) were not found, so their original identification could not be verified. Even the specimens collected and published by Harizanov (1964), formerly at the Agricultural University in Plovdiv, have not survived to the present day (V. Harizanova, pers. comm.). The classification and nomenclature of Psylloidea follows Burckhardt *et al.* (2021) and Ouvrard (2021), the nomenclature of host plants is adopted from WFO (2021). The distribution of individual psyllid species in Bulgaria follows the morphostructural territorial classification of Hubenov (1997).

## Results

### Aphalaridae Löw, 1879

Aphalarinae Löw, 1879

#### *Aphalara freji* Burckhardt & Lauterer, 1997

**Material examined.** Domljan vill., N42°32'28.1" E24°56'28.6", 364 m a.s.l., 10.viii.2020, 3 ♀♀; Srednogorovo vill., N42°31'14.4" E25°20'10.8", 418 m a.s.l., 13.vii.2020, , 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley, Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Klimaszewski 1965; both as *Aphalara polygoni*); Bulgaria, without precise locality data (Burckhardt 2004).

**Comments.** *Aphalara* is a difficult genus to identify because many species are similar in morphology. Many records published before Ossiannilsson (1992) and Burckhardt and Lauterer (1997b) were misidentified. Records of *Aphalara polygoni* Foerster, 1848 previously published for Bulgaria, with the host plant *Polygonum* sp. given, probably concern *A. freji* or *A. avicularis* Ossiannilsson, 1981 (cf. Burckhardt & Lauterer 1997b). *Aphalara freji* is widespread in the Palaearctic region (Burckhardt & Lauterer 1997b; Cho *et al.* 2017). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

### Psyllidae Latreille, 1807

Diaphorininae Vondráček, 1951

#### *Diaphorina lycii* Loginova, 1978

**Material examined.** Kriva krusha vill., N42°32'52.0" E25°52'41.5", 438 m a.s.l., 27.ix.2020, 5 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Black Sea coast: Northern Black Sea coast, Southern Black Sea coast (Loginova 1978); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Western Rhodopi Mts (Nakabachi *et al.* 2020).

**Comments.** *Diaphorina lycii* is associated with several host species of the genus *Lycium* in southern Europe, North Africa, Caucasus, Middle East, Central Asia and Mongolia (Burckhardt 1984). In Bulgaria, it occurs on *Lycium barbarum* (Loginova 1978). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

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### Psyllinae Latreille, 1807

#### ***Arytaina maculata* (Löw, 1886)**

**Material examined.** Chavdar hut, N42°45'23.0" E23°56'41.2", 1145 m a.s.l., 17.viii.2020, 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley (Głowacka 1989), Mesta Valley (Klimaszewski 1970), Pirin Mt. (Głowacka 1989), Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Klimaszewski 1965).

**Comments.** On *Cytisus* spp. in central and southern parts of Europe (Hodkinson & Hollis 1987; Malenovský *et al.* 2011). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.



**Fig. 1.** *Diaphorina lycii* Loginova, 1978 – adult, Bjaga vill., 15.04.2017, photo I. Gjonov.

#### ***Cacopsylla bidens* (Šulc, 1907)**

**Material examined.** Novo selo vill., N42°29'12.1" E25°30'34.7", 457 m a.s.l., 13.viii.2020, 1 ♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Kraishte-Konyavo district, Sofia Basin (Etropolska *et al.* 2015); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley (Głowacka 1989).

**Comments.** The species is widespread in southern and central Europe, North Africa, southwestern and Central Asia, India, and it was introduced to South America (Cho *et al.* 2020; Valle *et al.* 2017). It develops on *Pyrus communis*, *P. pyraster* and *P. syriaca* (Burckhardt & Hodkinson 1986). First record for the region of Sarnena.

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### ***Cacopsylla crataegi* (Schrank, 1801)**

**Published records.** Straldzhansko marsh, N42°37'20.3" E26°45'54.0", viii.1905 (Joakimov 1909).

**Material examined.** 11.viii.2020, Svezhen vill., Hadzhi Dimitar place, N42°30'28.2" E25°0'1.4", 879 m a.s.l., 1 ♂; 17.viii.2020, Chavdar hut, N42°45'23.0" E23°56'41.2", 1145 m a.s.l., 1 ♂, 1 ♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Pobalkan Basins (Joakimov 1909), Sofia Basin (Joakimov 1909); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley (Joakimov 1909), Western Rhodopi Mts (Klimaszewski 1965).

**Comments.** On *Crataegus* spp., widespread in the Palearctic region (Ossiannilsson 1992).

### ***Cacopsylla melanoneura* (Foerster, 1848)**

**Material examined.** Chavdar hut, N42°45'23.0" E23°56'41.2", 1145 m a.s.l., 17.viii.2020, 1 ♂, 3 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Danubian Plain: Popovo-Provadiya district (Joakimov 1909); Stara Planina Range system: Middle Predbalkan (Klimaszewski 1970); Transitional region: Kraishte-Konyavo district, Sofia Basin, Thracian Lowland (Etropolska et al. 2015, Joakimov 1909); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Mesta Valley (Klimaszewski 1970), Pirin Mt. (Głowacka 1989; Klimaszewski 1970), Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Harizanov & Lauterer 1968; Klimaszewski 1965).

**Comments.** The species is widespread in Europe, North Africa, Caucasus, Middle East, Russia and Mongolia (Ouvrard 2021). It has been also reported from most main regions in Bulgaria. The host plants belong to the genera *Crataegus*, *Malus*, *Mespilus* and *Pyrus* (Ossiannilsson 1992). A vector of the apple proliferation phytoplasma (Jarausch et al. 2019). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

### ***Cacopsylla peregrina* (Foerster, 1848)**

**Published records.** Straldzhansko marsh, N42°37'20.3" E26°45'54.0", viii.1905 (Joakimov 1909).

**Material examined.** Mrachenik vill., Hadzhi Dimitar place, N42°31'4.8" E24°59'14.3", 11.viii.2020, 940 m a.s.l., 1 ♂; Chavdar hut, N42°45'23.0" E23°56'41.2", 1145 m a.s.l., 17.viii.2020, 9 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Sushtinska Sredna Gora Mts (Joakimov 1909), Pobalkan Basins Sofia Basin (Nokkala et al. 2003); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley, Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983).

**Comments.** Common species across Europe, oligophagous on *Crataegus* spp. (Lauterer 1999).

### ***Cacopsylla picta* (Foerster, 1848)**

**Published records.** Stara Zagora, N42°25'28.8" E25°37'32.3", 1962 (Harizanov 1963).

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Black Sea coast: Northern Black Sea coast (Harizanov 1963, 1966a), Southern Black Sea coast (Harizanov 1963, 1966a); Stara Planina Range system: Middle Stara Planina Mts (Balkan) (Harizanov 1966a); Transitional region: Kraishte-Konyavo district (Etropolska et al. 2015, Harizanov 1966a), Sofia Basin (Etropolska et al. 2015), Thracian Lowland (Harizanov 1963, 1966a); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Boboshevo-Simitli Valley (Harizanov 1966a), Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983).

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**Comments.** Widespread in Europe and Turkey, a vector of the apple proliferation phytoplasma (Drohojowska & Burckhardt 2014; Jarausch *et al.* 2019). In Bulgaria, it is considered as a pest on *Malus* spp. and it was studied by Harizanov (1966a).

### ***Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zetterstedt, 1838)**

**Material examined.** Chavdar hut, N42°45'23.0" E23°56'41.2", 1145 m a.s.l., 17.viii.2020, 1 ♂.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Kraishte-Konyavo district (Percy & Cronk 2020); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley (Percy & Cronk 2020), Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983).

**Comments.** Widespread in the Palearctic region, associated with many *Salix* spp. (Percy & Cronk 2020, Lauterer 1999). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

### ***Cacopsylla pyrisuga* (Foerster, 1848)**

**Published records.** Strjama vill., N42°15'46.6" E24°52'43.7, 1961-1965 (Harizanov 1964); Borets vill., N42°20'43.1" E24°55'55.2", 1961-1965 (Harizanov 1964); Dolna Mahala vill., N42°24'59.2" E24°46'52.7", 1961-1965 (Harizanov 1964).

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Danubian Plain: Popovo-Provadiya district (Harizanov 1963); Black Sea coast: Northern Black Sea coast (Harizanov 1963), Southern Black Sea coast (Harizanov 1963); Stara Planina Range system: Eastern Stara Planina Mts (Balkan), Eastern Predbalkan (Harizanov 1963); Transitional region: Bakadzhik-Bourgas district (Harizanov 1963), Sushtinska Sredna Gora Mts (Harizanov 1966b; Joakimov 1909), Pobalkan Basins (Etropsolska *et al.* 2015, Harizanov 1963), Kraishte-Konyavo district, Sofia Basin (Etropsolska *et al.* 2015); Thracian Lowland (Harizanov 1966b); Sofia Basin (Joakimov 1909; Klimaszewski 1965); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Pirin Mt. (Głowacka 1989), Rila Mt. (Joakimov 1909); Eastern Rhodopi Mts (Harizanov 1963).

**Comments.** Widespread in the western Palearctic region (Cho *et al.* 2020); associated with *Pyrus communis*, *P. amygdaliformis* and *P. salicifolia* (Burckhardt & Hodkinson 1986).

### ***Livilla horvathi* (Scott, 1879)**

**Material examined.** Svezhen vill., marshy biotope, N42°30'48.5" E25°3'22.4", 1078 m a.s.l., 12.viii.2020, 2 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Mesta Valley (Głowacka 1989), Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Klimaszewski 1965).

**Comments.** Distributed in the eastern parts of Europe as well as Italy and Turkey; known host plants are *Cytisus austriacus* and *Genista tinctoria* (Hodkinson & Hollis 1987; Drohojowska & Burckhardt 2014, Seljak 2020). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

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**Fig. 2.** *Livilla horvathi* (Scott, 1879) – adult, Gaberovo vill., 01.05.2019, photo I. Gjonov.

### *Psylla foersteri* Flor, 1861

**Material examined.** Turia vill., N42°34'7.8" E25°10'17.3", 412 m a.s.l., 13.viii.2020, 3♂♂, 1♀; Srednogorovo vill., N42°31'14.4" E25°20'10.8", 418 m a.s.l., 13.viii.2020, 6♂♂, 8♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region (Joakimov 1909); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley (Głowacka 1989; Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Klimaszewski 1965).

**Comments.** Widespread in the western Palearctic region, associated with *Alnus glutinosa* and *A. incana* (Ossiannilsson 1992, Ouvrard 2021). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

### **Triozae Löw, 1879**

#### *Bactericera modesta* (Foerster, 1848)

**Material examined.** Rozovets vill., N42°29'50.676", E25°6'38.592", 1005 a.s.l., 13.viii.2020, 1♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983); Bulgaria, without precise locality data (Burckhardt & Lauterer 1997a).

**Comments.** The species is widespread in the western Palearctic region and Mongolia and associated with *Sanguisorba minor* and *S. officinalis* (Burckhardt & Lauterer 1997a). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.

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### *Eryngiofaga dlabolai* (Vondráček, 1957)

**Published records.** Turia vill., N42°34'21.6", E25°10'55.2", ix. 1905, (Joakimov, 1909, as *Trioza mesomela* Flor, 1861).

**Material examined.** Domljan vill., N42°32'28.1" E24°56'28.6", 364 m a.s.l., 10.viii.2020, 1 ♀; Kriva krusha vill., N42°32'52.0" E25°52'41.5", 438 m a.s.l., 27.ix.2020, 2 ♀♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Pobalkan Basins (Joakimov 1909).

**Comments.** The record of *Trioza mesomela* Flor, 1861 (now *Eryngiofaga mesomela*) published by Joakimov (1909) is attributed here to *E. dlabolai*, based on the identification of recently collected material. *Eryngiofaga dlabolai* has been reported from eastern Europe and Caucasus and is associated with *Eryngium campestre* (Loginova 1977).



**Fig. 3.** *Eryngiofaga dlabolai* (Vondráček, 1957) – adults and immatures, Brjagovec vill., 06.09.2016, photo I. Gjonov.

### *Phylloplecta trisignata* (Löw, 1886)

**Published records.** Turia vill., N42°34'21.6", E25°10'55.2", ix. 1905 (Joakimov, 1909).

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Pobalkan Basins (Joakimov 1909); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Krupnik-Sandanski-Petrich Valley (Główacka 1989).

**Comments.** On *Rubus* spp., widespread in southern Europe and Turkey (Conci & Tamanini 1984, Drohojowska & Burckhardt 2014).

### *Trioza galii* Foerster, 1848

**Published records.** Stara Zagora, N42°25'28.8" E25°37'32.3", 200 m a.s.l., 08.vi.1959, 2 ♀♀ (Klimaszewski 1965).

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**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Transitional region: Thracian Lowland (Klimaszewski 1965); Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Eastern Rhodopi Mts (Klimaszewski 1965).

**Comments.** The *Trioza galii* complex was recently revised by Burckhardt & Lauterer (2006). The material recorded from Bulgaria by Klimaszewski (1965) has to be revised as it may belong to *T. galii*, *T. velutina* or both species which are associated with Rubiaceae, mainly *Galium* and *Asperula* spp. (Burckhardt & Lauterer 2006).

### *Trioza rotundata* Flor, 1861

**Material examined.** Chavdar hut, N42°45'23.0" E23°56'41.2", 1145 m a.s.l., 17.viii.2020, 1 ♀.

**Known distribution in Bulgaria.** Rila-Rhodopi Massif: Pirin Mt. (Głowacka 1989; Głowacka & Harizanov 1983), Western Rhodopi Mts (Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Harizanov & Lauterer 1968); Bulgaria, without precise locality data (Burckhardt & Lauterer 2002).

**Comments.** Host plants of *T. rotundata* are *Cardamine* species (Burckhardt & Lauterer 2002). First record for the region of Sarnena Gora.



**Fig. 4.** *Phylloplecta trisignata* – adult, Novi han vill., 21.08.2016, photo I. Gjonov.



**Fig. 5.** *Phylloplecta trisignata* – immature, Novi han vill., 21.08.2016, photo I. Gjonov.

### Discussion

A total of 17 species were found in Sarnena Gora. Ten species from 3 families are new to the region. So far, four of them, viz. *Aphalara freji*, *Arytaina maculata*, *Livilla horvathi* and *Bactericera modesta*, had been known in Bulgaria only from the region of the Rila-Rhodopes Massif. Most other species currently known from Sarnena Gora are quite widespread in Europe or at least in its southern or eastern parts and they have been also reported from several other regions of Bulgaria (Etropsolska *et al.* 2015, Joakimov 1909; Harizanov 1963, 1966a,b; Klimaszewski 1965, 1970; Harizanov & Lauterer 1968; Loginova 1978; Głowacka & Harizanov 1983; Głowacka 1989; Nokala *et al.* 2003; Nakabachi *et al.* 2020; Percy & Cronk 2020).

With 17 species recorded so far, the psyllid fauna of Sarnena Gora is still poorly studied. In comparison, the number of known species from the well-studied Western Rhodope subregion is 62 (Głowacka 1989). We assume that after more detailed field work many more species will be found due to the great diversity of habitats and flora in the mountains.

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