

First record of *Corythauma ayyari* (Drake, 1933) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae) in Egypt

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ABSTRACT: The first record of *Corythauma ayyari* (Drake, 1933) for Egypt is reported. Information on the known distribution of this invasive species in the Mediterranean Region is summarized and discussed.

KEYWORDS: *Corythauma ayyari*, first record, invasive species, distribution, Mediterranean Region, pest.

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INTRODUCTION

Fifteen years ago, the Oriental tingid *Corythauma ayyari* (Drake, 1933) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae), which is native to India, Laos, Malaysia, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Vietnam (Roca-Cusachs & Goula, 2014; Haouas et al., 2015; van der Heyden, 2019), was found in the Mediterranean Region for the first time (Novoselsky & Freidberg, 2013). Since then, the species has spread in the area. So far, *C. ayyari* has been reported from France (Streito et al., 2010), Italy (Pedata et al., 2013; Carapezza, 2014), Spain (Roca-Cusachs & Goula, 2014), Greece (Rietschel, 2015), Malta (Carapezza & Mifsud, 2015) and Monaco (van der Heyden, 2019) in Europe, from Israel (Novoselsky & Freidberg, 2013), the United

Arab Emirates (Carapezza, 2014; Carapezza et al., 2014) and Syria (Zeity & Ali, 2019) in the Middle East as well as from Tunisia (Haouas et al., 2015) in Northern Africa.

C. ayyari is considered a serious pest, as nymphs and adults of the species are causing severe damages by feeding on different ornamental plants, especially on various species of *Jasminum* (Oleaceae) (van der Heyden, 2019).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

On 01.06.2017, Yasmin Abdel Monem photographed a specimen of *C. ayyari* in Cairo, the capital of Egypt. On that occasion, several specimens of *C. ayyari* were invading *Jasminum sambac* L. The photograph was published in the online database iNaturalist (Abdel Monem, 2017).



DISCUSSION

As *C. ayyari* has not been reported for Egypt in scientific publications yet, the record reported in this note is the first one for this country. Very likely, the species is present in other countries of the Mediterranean Region, but has been overlooked so far.

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