

SHORT COMMUNICATION

***Platyobria biemani* (Hemiptera: Psylloidea: Aphalaridae), a new introduction into Israel and a potential pest of eucalypts**

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Five (3♀, 2♂) adult psyllids were collected the end of April, 2015 from *Eucalyptus camaldulensis* Dehnh. (Myrtaceae) at Tzapari Bird Park in Tel Aviv, Israel. They are identified as *Platyobria biemani* Burckhardt, Queiroz & Malenovský, 2014 a presumed Australian species which has been previously known only from the type locality on the island of Lesbos, Greece (Burckhardt *et al.* 2014). *Platyobria* belongs to the Spondylaspidinae, a rich and diversified subfamily mostly restricted to Australia that lives on the Myrtaceae, in particular *Eucalyptus* spp. (Hollis 2004). Several spondylaspidines have been introduced to other continents, where some of them have become serious eucalypt pests (Queiroz *et al.* 2012). Most of these introductions are relatively recent and their spread is usually rapid. This is particularly well documented for South America where no eucalypt psyllids were known before 1990. In the second half of the 1990s, three species (*Blastopsylla occidentalis* Taylor, *Ctenarytaina eucalypti* (Maskell) and *C. spatulata* Taylor) appeared almost simultaneously (Burckhardt *et al.* 1999). A few years later a fourth species (*Glycaspis brimblecombei* Moore) was found in Chile (Sandoval & Rothmann 2002) and it quickly spread over the continent (Queiroz *et al.* 2013).



Fig. 1: *Platyobria biemanni* Burckhardt, Queiroz & Malenovský, 2014, general appearance. (Photo Burckhardt *et al.* 2014)

Six invasive psyllids species have been reported on eucalypts from the Western Palaearctic region and in Israel, two (*B. occidentalis* and *G. brimblecombei*) have been recorded only recently (Spodek *et al.* 2015). It is important that investigations on the detailed distribution and biology of *P. biemani*, the new introduction into Israel, should be made before it may develop into a serious new pest.

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