

***Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 new to Spain (Psocoptera: Ectopsocidae)**

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Abstract

On 5.IV.2017, *Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 was observed for the first time in Spain on the island Mallorca near Lluc.

Keywords: barkflies, *Ectopsocus petersi*, Mallorca, Spain

Samenvatting

Op 5.IV.2017 werd *Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 voor het eerst in Spanje waargenomen op het eiland Majorca bij Lluc.

Résumé

Le 5.IV.2017, *Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 a été observé pour la première fois en Espagne sur l'île de Majorque, près de Lluc.

Introduction

Barkflies or Psocoptera are quite well studied in Spain. LIENHARD (1998) already mentioned 103 species from Spain (Canaries not included), of which five species of *Ectopsocus*. Here, *Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 is reported for the first time for Spain.

Material and methods

Psocoptera were sampled by sweeping the vegetation. Specimens were preserved in ethanol and identified using LIENHARD (1998). Material of *E. petersi* has been deposited to the entomological collection of the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS, I.G.: 33.467).

Results

On 5.IV.2017, dozens of *E. petersi* were found near Lluc on the island Mallorca in Spain (latitude: 39°49'21"; longitude: 2°53'7"). It was by far the most encountered species, although at this time of the year, the only other species found by sweeping were *Elipsocus nuptialis* Roesler, 1954 and *Valenzuela corsicus* (Kolbe, 1882).

Ectopsocus petersi differs from the closely related *Ectopsocus briggsi* McLachlan, 1899 and *Ectopsocus meridionalis* Ribaga, 1904 in having more extensive and darker spots at the ends of the veins (Fig. 1). In addition, males can be recognised by the tubercular areas on the eighth tergite that



Fig. 1. Habitus *Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 (Photograph: Koen Lock).

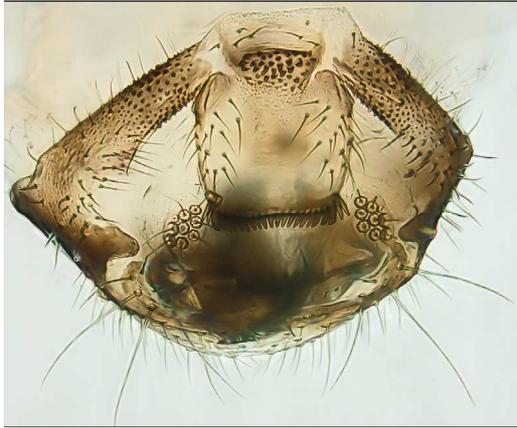


Fig. 2. *Clunium Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 (Photograph: Koen Lock).



Fig. 3. Phallosome *Ectopsocus petersi* Smithers, 1978 (Photograph: Koen Lock).

are better developed, with a median tubercular area (Fig. 2) instead of the comb-like structure in *E. briggsi* (a comb-like structure is present on the ninth tergite in both species) and by the medio-distal sclerite of the phallosome that is asymmetrical and possesses only one pair of horns (Fig. 3). The colouration of *E. petersi* is darker than the parthenogenetic *E. meridionalis*.

Discussion

Ectopsocus petersi was described from Ireland, where it was found in 1976 (SMITHERS, 1978). Shortly after that, the species was also reported from Great Britain (CLARK, 1979a,b; PLANT, 1979). In 1983, it was found in Belgium and in 1988 in France (SCHNEIDER, 1989). The species was also introduced to the USA (MOCKFORD, 1993), Australia (SMITHERS, 2005) and New Zealand (SMITHERS, 2010). In 2006, *E. petersi* was discovered in Sweden (SVENSON & HALL, 2010) and in 2007 in Norway (SVENSON & HALL, 2010) and Germany (SCHNEIDER *et al.*, 2012), in 2008 in Denmark (SVENSON & HALL, 2010), in 2009 in Luxembourg (SCHNEIDER, 2010) and in 2015 in the Netherlands (FRANKEN & BERG, 2016). Here, the species is also reported from Spain.

Currently, *E. petersi* is one of the most common Psocoptera in Belgium and the Netherlands. However, there is no historical material present for *E. petersi*, although *E. briggsi* is well represented in historical collections. Also from other countries, no historical records have been published, indicating that the species was first introduced to Europe in the British Isles and is now gradually colonising the rest of Europe. However, it is unclear where the species originates from.

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