

A NEW HOST RECORD FOR THE EGG PARASITOID *PARACENTROBIA AMERICANA* (GIRAULT) (HYMENOPTERA: TRICHOGRAMMATIDAE) OF THE PROCONIINE SHARPSHOOTER *HOMALODISCA INSOLITA* (WALKER) (HEMIPTERA: CLYPEORRYNCHA: CICADELLIDAE)

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Interest in the natural enemies of proconiine sharpshooters has increased since the introduction and establishment of the glassy-winged sharpshooter, *Homalodisca coagulata* (Say), in California. Previous surveys of egg parasitoids of proconiine sharpshooters from Florida indicated several species in the families Mymaridae and Trichogrammatidae (Hymenoptera) as the most common (Triapitsyn et al. 1998; Triapitsyn & Hoddle 2001). Presently, classical biocontrol efforts to manage introduced populations of *H. coagulata* in California rely exclusively on inundative releases of egg parasitoids of the genus *Gonatocerus*. Triapitsyn (2003) created a key to the genera of trichogrammatid parasitoids of proconiine sharpshooter eggs in the southeastern US that included an unidentified species of the genus *Paracentrobia* Howard. Poor condition of type specimens of *P. acuminata* (Ashmead), deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, D.C., did not allow then for a positive identification of the *Paracentrobia* sp. from Florida and Georgia as *P. acuminata* (Triapitsyn 2003). More recently, specimens of *Paracentrobia* obtained from egg masses of *Cuerna costalis* (F.) and *Homalodisca insolita* (Walker) collected from Byron and Centerville, Georgia were identified as *P. acuminata* (Hoddle & Triapitsyn 2004). Additionally, specimens listed as *P. acuminata*, collected previously from Monticello, Florida, and Fort Valley, Georgia were verified by J. George (pers. comm.). We have reared another species of *Paracentrobia*, *P. americana* (Girault), that has not previously been reported from the southeastern United States. This parasitoid attacked the eggs of *H. insolita* that were cultured in cages of Johnson grass, *Sorghum halepense* (L.) Persoon.

Notes on *Paracentrobia americana*. This species was described from Salt Lake City, UT where it was reported to parasitize the eggs of an undetermined leafhopper found on *Elymus* sp. (Girault 1917). Prior to this study, the species description included the only published host association and distribution records for *P. americana*.

Material Examined. *Paracentrobia americana*: USA, Florida, Gadsden Co., Quincy, 30-IX-2004, C. Tipping, numerous females and males (emerged from egg masses of a culture of *H. insolita* reared on *S. halepense*). All specimens exam-

ined for this record were tentatively determined by S. V. Triapitsyn and then confirmed by J. George (Department of Entomology, University of California, Riverside); voucher material was deposited at UCRC (Entomology Research Museum, University of California, Riverside).

Notes on the Host, *Homalodisca insolita*. Prior to 1944, this species had a reported distribution that included Mexico, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas. It was subsequently discovered in Georgia (Kaloostian & Yeomans 1944). By the late 1950s, its distribution was reported to include Louisiana, Arkansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina (Pollard et al. 1959). It has been reported to feed on many plants but prefers grasses (Turner & Pollard 1959), including Texas millet (*Panicum texanum* Buckley), crab grasses (*Digitaria* spp.), and Johnson grass (*S. halepense* (L.) Persoon). In north Florida, reproductive plant hosts of *H. insolita* include Johnson grass and southern sand spur, *Cenchrus echinatus* L. (Tipping et al. 2004). The most common parasitoid of *H. insolita* eggs in Florida is *Acmopolynema sema* Schauff (Hymenoptera: Mymaridae) (Triapitsyn et al. 2002).

H. insolita is a competent vector of *Xylella fastidiosa* bacterium, the causative agent of many plant diseases including phony peach, Pierce's disease of grape, and plum leaf scald (Turner & Pollard 1955). Many of the grass and weed species fed upon by *H. insolita* are reservoirs of *Xylella* bacteria. While *H. insolita* feeds primarily on herbaceous hosts, we have documented that it also feeds on economically important hardwood species that are susceptible to *X. fastidiosa* such as peach and plum (Mizell & French 1987). Potentially, the parasitoid *P. americana* may serve as a management tool in combating the spread of *X. fastidiosa* diseases.

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SUMMARY

The trichogrammatid wasp, *Paracentrobia americana* (Girault), was reared from egg masses of the leafhopper *Homalodisca insolita* (Walker) maintained in culture at the University of Florida North Florida Research and Education Center in Quincy, Florida. This discovery is a new host record for *P. americana*. Parasitized egg masses were found on Johnson grass, *Sorghum halepense* (L.) Persoon.

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