THE FIRST RECORD OF *COCCOBIUS TESTACEUS* (MASI, 1909) (HYMENOPTERA: APHELINIDAE) ON *LEPIDOSAPHES PISTACIAE* (ARCHANGELSKAYA) (HOMOPTERA: DIASPIDIDAE) IN TURKEY

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ABSTRACT: Natural enemies of *Lepidosaphes pistaciae* (Archangelskaya) (Hemiptera: Diaspididae) were collected from pistachio growing areas of Siirt Province in 2003 and 2004. The parasitism of *L. pistaciae by Coccobius testaceus* (Masi, 1909) (Hymenoptera: Aphelinidae) was determined as the first record in Turkey

KEY WORLDS: *Lepidosaphes pistaciae*, *Coccobius testaceus*, new host, Turkey

Aphelinidae family has more than 1225 species under 34 genera (Noyes, 2008). The members of this family are widespread across the world and they are either endo or ecto-parasites of Aphidoidea, Aleyrodidae, Psylloidea and primarily Coccoidea superfamilies. *Coccobius* species are parasitoids of many pests belonging to Diaspididae family (Japoshvili & Karaca, 2003). Although *Coccobius* has 81 species, only *C. testaceus* was reported from Turkey (Noyes, 2008). This study focused on the possible parasitism of *L. pistaciae*, an important pest of pistachio, by *C. testaceus*.

MATERIALS AND METHOD

This study was carried out in two pistachio orchards infested by *L. pistaciae* in Siirt Province in 2003 and 2004. Depending on the size of the orchards, 5 to 10 infested pistachio shoots, 15 to 20 cm in length were cut and taken to the laboratory. The shoots were placed in paper bags with glass tubes on top to observe emergence of parasitoids that move toward light into the tubes. The tubes were checked daily and emerged individuals were collected from tubes and placed in vials containing 70% alcohol. The emergence of parasitoids was recorded on a weekly basis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Among the individuals emerged from *L. pistaciae,* 2 females and 1 male parasitoids were identified as *Coccobius testaceus*. These individuals emerged from the samples collected on 01.05.2004. *C. testaceus* is known as the parasitoid of some *Lepidosaphes* species (*L. malicola*, *L. ulmi* and *L. pistaciae*) (Davatchi & Chojai 1969; Aydoğdu & Toros, 1987; Oncuer, 1991; Japoshvili & Karaca, 2002;

Mansouri, 2005; Noyes, 2008; SclaeNet, 2008). *C. testaceus* parasitizes *Chionaspis salicilis*, which is pest of willow (Doganlar, 1985). However, the parasitism of *L. pistaciae* by *C. testaceus*, observed in this study is the first record in the Turkey. Further investigations are needed for the opportunities to utilize *C. testaceus* in the biological control of *L. pistaciae* in the future.

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