SCIENTIFIC NOTE

FIRST RECORD FOR SEVEN SPECIES OF LEAF BUGS (HEMIPTERA, MIRIDAE) FOR IRAN INSECT FAUNA FROM EAST AZARBAYJAN PROVINCE

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Miridae, leaf bugs or plant bugs, is the largest family in the order of Hemiptera, consisting of about 800 genera and several thousand species throughout the world so that its members are to be found on vegetation almost everywhere. Some are very abundant, most species are plant feeders, but a few are predaceous on other insects. Some of the plant-feeding species are pests of cultivated plants (Krezhner & Yachevski, 1964 and Lodos & Önder, 1986). The Miridae are diurnal but are occasionally attracted to light (Miller, 1971). Members of this group can be recognized by the presence of a cuneus and only one or two closed cells at the base of the membrane (Linnavuori, 1965 and Borror et al., 1989). They are variously coloured, but mostly pale. After the final ecdysis when the insect becomes adult the colour develops gradually. They are generally rather delicate, soft-bodied insects, usually between 3 and 10 millimeters in length, with four-segmented rostrum and three-segmented tarsi, having large eye but no ocelli (Lodos, 1982 and Dolling & Palmer, 1991).

Recently, some studies have been carried out on Heteroptera particularly on mirids in Iran (Hosseini et al., 2002, Sedghian et al., 2004, Yarmand et al., 2004 and Askari et al., 2009). A survey was conducted on Heteroptera fauna of East Azarbayjan province, located in north west part of Iran, during 2009. The verified specimens were collected by sweeping handy entomological net and malaise trap from different localities of studied area particularly Qaradag forests and Gunber valley. Seven species of mirids are introduced newly for Iran insect fauna by the present study and are listed as follows:

Leptopterna ferrugata (Fallen, 1807)
Stenodema calcarata (Fallen, 1807)
Mermitelocerus schmidtii (Fieber, 1836)
Hadrodemus m-flavum Fabricius, 1781
Globiceps flavomaculatus (Fabricius, 1794)
Exentricus planicornis (H-S., 1836)
Hadrodemus noualhieri (Reuter, 1896)

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