

## Scientific note

## Occurrence of *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (Hemiptera: Flatidae) on *Acacia podalyriaefolia* (Mimosoideae) in Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil

Presencia de *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (Hemiptera: Flatidae) en *Acacia podalyriaefolia* (Mimosoideae) en Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brasil

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**Resumen:** Los adultos y las ninfas de *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (Auchenorrhyncha: Flatidae) se encontraron en plantas de *Acacia podalyriaefolia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) en Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brasil, en octubre de 2007. Este es el primer registro para la municipalidad de Viçosa y en plantas de *A. podalyriaefolia*, sobre el cual puede completar su ciclo de vida entero.

**Palabras clave:** *Manguifera. Anona. Eucalyptus. Citrus. Theobroma.*

**Abstract:** Adults and nymphs of *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (Auchenorrhyncha: Flatidae) were found on *Acacia podalyriaefolia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) in Viçosa, Minas Gerais, in October 2007. This is the first record of this insect in the municipality of Viçosa and on plants of *A. podalyriaefolia* on which it can complete its full life cycle.

**Key words:** *Manguifera. Anona. Eucalyptus. Citrus. Theobroma.*

### Introduction

*Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (L., 1758) (Auchenorrhyncha: Flatidae) is recorded from Mexico through and Brazil (Maes 2004). In Brazil it has been reported in Bahia, Goiás, Mato Grosso, Minas Gerais, Pará, Paraíba, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Sul, Roraima, São Paulo and Sergipe states (Araújo *et al.* 1968; Querino *et al.* 2007; Silva 2009; Ferreira *et al.* 2009). *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* is characterized by having general pale yellowish color with black spots on the tegmina and wings (Figs 1C-D) (Costa Lima 1942). It is phytophagous (Maes 2004) and excretes a sticky substance that causes sooty mold to grow on the plant and cover leaves and branches, obstructing to some level the plant breathing, transpiration and photosynthesis (Querino *et al.* 2007). Plants considered as potential hosts for *P. phalaenoides* include species of the genera *Cassia*, *Delonix* (Caesalpinaceae), *Cajanus*, *Dipteryx* (Fabaceae), *Manguifera* (Anacardiaceae), *Anona* (Anonaceae), *Eucalyptus*, *Psidium* (Myrtaceae), *Rosa*, *Prunus* (Rosaceae), *Coffea* (Rubiaceae), *Citrus* (Rutaceae), *Theobroma* (Sterculiaceae), *Enterolobium*, *Pithecelobium*, *Inga*, *Albizia* and *Acacia* (*A. mangium*) (Mimosaceae) (Maes 2004; Querino *et al.* 2007).

Adults and immature stages of *P. phalaenoides* were found on plants of *A. podalyriaefolia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) on October 2007, in Viçosa county, state of Minas Gerais (coordinates: 20°45'28.2"S; 42°52'26.6"W at 656 masl altitude). This is an exotic plant in the Brazilian fauna, native to Australia (Fig 1A). Specimens of *P. phalaenoides* were collected and sent to Dr. Stephen W. Wilson from Department of Agriculture of the University of Central Mis-



**Figure 1.** A. *Acacia podalyriaefolia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae) plant in Viçosa, Minas Gerais, Brazil. B. Specimens of *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (Auchenorrhyncha: Flatidae) on branches of *A. podalyriaefolia*. C. Detail of *P. phalaenoides* and its gregarious habit. D. Nymphs of *Poekilloptera phalaenoides* (Auchenorrhyncha: Flatidae) on plants of *Acacia podalyriaefolia* (Leguminosae: Mimosoideae).

souri, USA, for identification. The plant was identified by Dr. Antônio Leis Pinheiro from the Department Plant Biology of the Federal University of Viçosa (UFV). These insects were observed feeding exclusively on branches of this plant, and the observed symptom was the presence of long, curled filaments of waxy exudate covering the branches. After this

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observation, it was concluded that *A. podalyriaefolia* can be a potential host for *P. phalaenoides* (Figs. 1A-B) because in addition to the adults, there were nymphs on the branches of the plant (Fig 1D, arrows), indicating that the plant can be not only a refuge or shelter but also a place to reproduction.

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