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Description of *fundatrix* morph of *Stomaphis wojciechowskii* Depa 2012 (Aphidoidea: Lachnidae)

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Abstract. The paper presents the first description of the *fundatrix* morph of *Stomaphis wojciechowskii* Depa 2012 – a recently described species of the aphid family Lachnidae.

Key words: entomology, morphology, Aphidoidea, Lachnidae, *Stomaphis wojciechowskii*, fundatrix morph

INTRODUCTION

Genus *Stomaphis* Walker 1870 (Aphidoidea, Lachnidae) comprises about 30 species of big aphids with extremely long rostrum, much exceeding the length of their body. Such long mouthparts enable them to feed on trunks of deciduous trees, were they are associated with ants of the genus *Lasius* (Szelęgiewicz 1978). Many species of this genus exhibit very cryptic life mode, being hidden in deep bark crevices or in the ant chambers under the bark (Depa 2012). Such a situation concerns a newly described species: *Stomaphis wojciechowskii* Depa, 2012, which for a long time remained undiscovered due to its feeding location (Depa et al. 2012).

Until present, only apterous viviparous females, oviparous females and males of this species were described. This paper aims at describing so far unknown morph of this species – fundatrix, the first generation of aphids hatching from overwintering eggs laid in the autumn by oviparous females after copulation with dwarfish males (Depa et al. 2012).

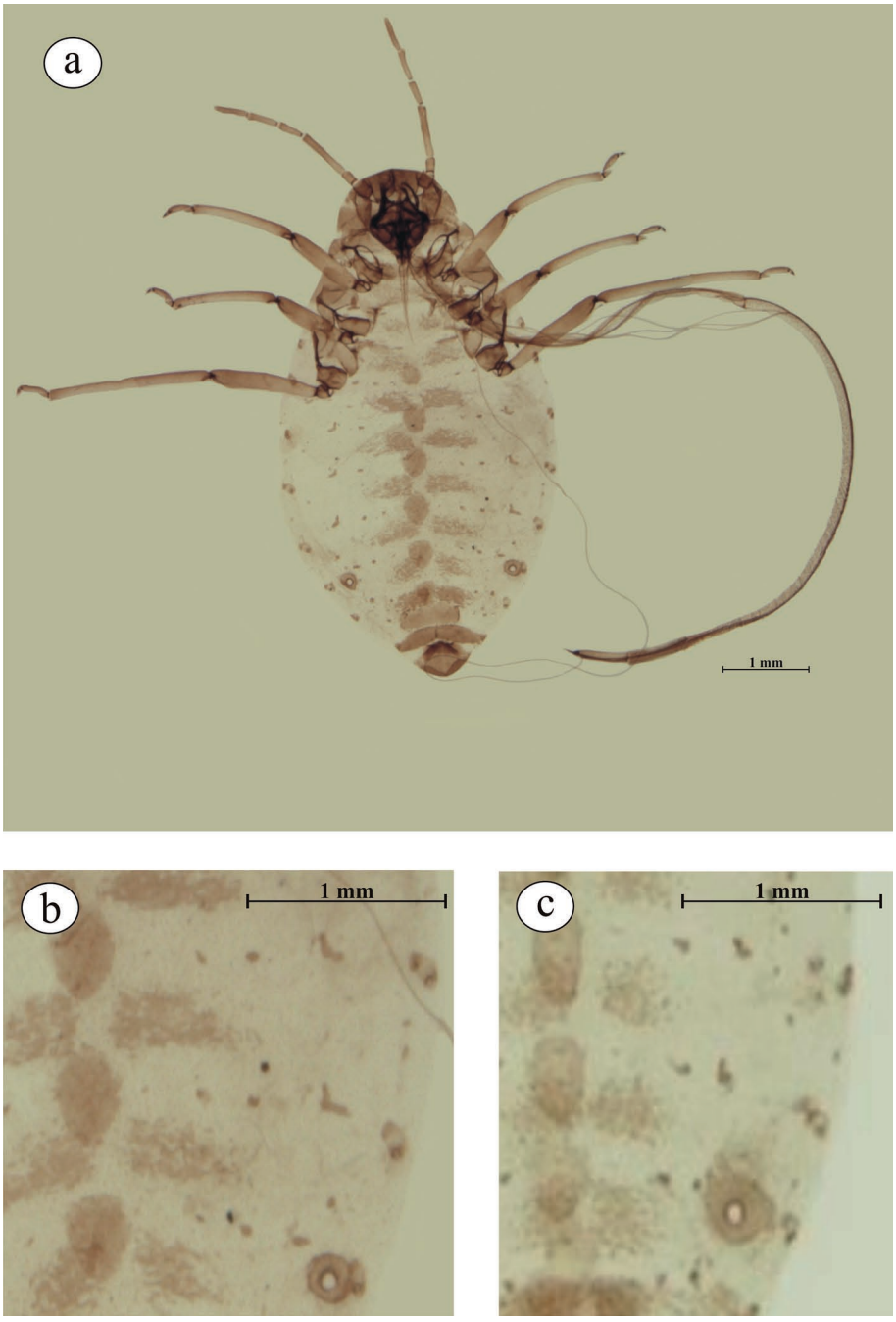
MATERIAL EXAMINED

The examined material comprised two apterous females of the fundatrix generation, collected in the type locality, on the same tree that holotype.

Collection data: Piekary Śląskie (Upper Silesia, UTM: CA 58, N: 50°24'11.48" E: 18°57'47.87"), Dioblina forest, the trunk of *Quercus robur* L., associated with *Lasius brunneus* (Latreille, 1798), 02.06.2011, 2 adult apterous females.

Both females fed at the height of ca. 0.6-0.7 m above ground level, in deep bark crevices, covered with soil by ants.

1. Habitus of the *fundatrix* of *S. wojciechowskii*



2. The morphological features of *S. wojciechowskii*: fundatrix (a, b) and apterous viviparous female (c)

DESCRIPTION

Body elliptical, light fuscous with slight greenish tint, dull, slightly powdered with wax, with clearly visible rows of dark, spinal plates on dorsum (Fig. 1.); whole body covered by short pubescence; body 5.81-6.42 mm long (Fig. 2a).

Head short, about 1.14-1.28 mm wide across eyes; epicranial suture well visible; compound eye with ca. 30 ommatidia and triommatidium; antennae 6-segmented, pale, 2.06-2.1 mm long, 0.32-0.36 of body, segment VI (0.38-0.40 mm) longer than V (0.36-0.37 mm), both with only primary rhinaria; segment III 0.64 mm long, with 5-7 small, secondary rhinaria, at the distal half of the segment; processus terminalis 0.060-0.067 mm long, 0.15-0.17 of VIa; rostrum long, about twice as long as body; rostral segment II provided with many sclerites around hair-bases, rostral segment III 0.68-0.70 mm, rostral segments IV+V 0.63-0.64 mm long.

Pronotum sclerotised, mesonotum and metanotum with marginal and pair of spinal sclerites. Legs as dark as pronotum, with knees slightly darker. Second segment of hind tarsus (HTII) 0.322-0.342 mm, first segment of hind tarsus (HTI) 0.107 mm, HTII/HTI ratio 3.00-3.19; second segment of middle tarsus (MTII) 0.268, HTII/MTII ratio 1.20-1.28.

Abdomen with clearly visible row of paired spinal sclerotic plates along its whole length; unlike apterous viviparous female of next generations sclerotic plates only weakly divided into a few small sclerites, rather uniform, wider than long (Fig. 2b vs 2c). Ventral part of abdomen with median longitudinal row of six sclerotized plates, with fine microsculpture; sixth fused with subgenital plate. Intersegmental muscle insertions dark. Siphunculi on sclerotic plates, with the mean diameter of 0.244 mm (±0.04), smaller than of next generations of apterous morphs (0.41-0.59 mm) and without smaller sclerites in the proximal part (Fig. 2b vs 2c).

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