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Heteroptera: Miridae

Dicyphus escalerae Lindberg, 1934. Moravia mer., Moravské Bránice (6964), in humid front garden as well as in dry, warm flowerbed alongside a road (both near the railway), on *Antirrhinum majus*, 12.ix.2009, 8 ♂♂ 7 ♀♀ (2 ♀♀ brachypterous), K. Hradil lgt., det. et coll., 1 ♂ P. Kment revid. (coll. National Museum, Praha). Many adults and nymphs of *D. escalerae* together with *Dicyphus errans* (Wolff, 1804), *Lygus rugulipennis* Poppius, 1911 (both Miridae) and *Corizus hyoscyami* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Rhopalidae) were observed on *Antirrhinum majus* (Scrophulariaceae).

Dicyphus escalerae is a Western-Mediterranean species described from Sierra Nevada in Spain (Lindberg 1934); it was later redescribed, including the essential male genitalia characters, by Wagner (1951). The species is known throughout Spain (Lindberg 1934, Wagner 1960, Simon 1995, Ribes et al. 2004, Sánchez et al. 2006), and has subsequently also been found in Italy (Liguria, Genova – Tamanini 1956) and Corsica (Péricart 1965). From the 1980s onwards, *D. escalerae* has been discovered in many other localities, apparently spreading north and east: France (Var in 1984, Hérault in 1987, L'Aude in 1988, Montbolo, La Redoute in 1990, Paris in 1992) (Matocq 1996); Germany (Rhineland-Palatinate in 1993, Hesse in 1995, Baden-Württemberg in 1995, North Rhine-Westphalia in 2007) (Simon 1995, Heckmann & Rieger 2001, Schäfer 2009); north Italy (Alpine valleys of Piedmont in 2000) (Ingegno et al. 2008); Switzerland (Geneva in 2004) (Hollier & Matocq 2004, Hollier 2005); Portugal (Hollier 2005); and Great Britain (Leicester in 2008) (Kirby et al. 2009). It has been treated as an alien true bug in Europe (Rabitsch 2008).

Dicyphus escalerae lives on *Antirrhinum majus*, feeding on all parts of the plant – leaves, flower spikes, buds, bracts, flowers, seed pods, stems etc. While nymphs were seen only on *A. majus*, adults have also been found on *Hyoscyamus albus* (Solanaceae) (Sánchez et al. 2006). Nymphs, adults, and probably eggs of *Dicyphus escalerae* overwinter. In spring the brachypterous form occurs, while in the summer specimens are macropterous (Simon 1995, Hollier & Matocq 2004, Rabitsch 2008). Hollier & Matocq (2004) discussed the paradox that this species has spread only recently, although *A. majus* has been a popular and widespread garden plant for decades; they attribute this phenomenon probably to climate change and the increasing transportation of goods in Europe. New alien species for the Czech Republic.

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