

# BLACK LOCUST APHID, *APPENDISETA ROBINIAE*: FURTHER EXPANSION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

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**Introduction.** *Appendiseta robiniae* (Insecta: Rhynchotha: Aphidoidea: Drepanosiphidae) has been described by C.P. Gillette in 1907 as *Callipterus robiniae* from Denver (Colorado, USA) (Gillette, 1908). At present, *A. robiniae* is widespread in North America and introduced into South America, Europe, the Middle (<http://www.aphidsonworldsplants.info/>) and Far East. The species is known in the south of Europe from Iberian, Apennine, and Balkan peninsulas, Northern Black Sea Coast regions (Martynov & Nikulina, 2019) and up to Iran in the East (Entezari, Namaghi & Moravvej, 2016). The species was registered in Belarus in the forest zone of Eastern Europe (Zhorov, Sautkin & Buga, 2016). Black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L., 1753), the main host plant of *A. robiniae*, is a common tree in numerous regions of Eastern Europe that provides opportunities for further expansion of *A. robiniae*.

**Materials and methods.** The article is based on materials collected in Kaliningrad province of Russia by S. Buga (2016) and all administrative regions of Belarus by F. Sautkin, S. Buga, A. Sinchuk, and A. Roginsky (2012–2017). Microscope slides were prepared by using Faure-Berlese mounting fluid and were stored in the collection of Zoological Department at Belarusian State University.

**Results.** In Belarus *A. robiniae* was collected for the first time in 2012 in Petrikov (Polessie, Gomel region) only, while in green areas in neighboring districts, the species was not recorded. Up to 2017, the species was registered in all areas of the country where black locust grew. Among them were districts of Vitebsk, Mogilev and Gomel regions along the border with Russian Federation. However, a targeted inspection of black locust specimens in green areas of Moscow and the Moscow province (Klin district) in 2019 did not reveal that alien species.

In Kaliningrad province of Russia *A. robiniae* was abundant in 2016 on *R. pseudoacacia* in green areas of Kaliningrad, Guryevsk, and Zelenogradsk. The high level of population density indicates that the invasion of this alien species occurred earlier in previous years.

**Conclusion.** *Appendiseta robiniae* (Gillette, 1907) is an alien aphid species of Nearctic origin that have invaded Central and Eastern Europe. The species was registered for the first time in Kaliningrad province (Russia) in 2016 as abundant on black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia* L., 1753) in green areas of Kaliningrad, Guryevsk, and Zelenogradsk. In Belarus *A. robiniae* was registered in districts of Vitebsk, Mogilev and Gomel regions along the border with Russian Federation. Inspection of specimens of *R. pseudoacacia* in green areas of Moscow and the Moscow province in 2019 did not reveal this alien species.

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