

## DICTYONOTA FULIGINOSA COSTA (HEMIPTERA: TINGIDAE) IN THE NEARCTIC

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During 1959 samples of populations of Mirid Heteroptera on broom (*Sarothamnus scoparius*) were taken on the campus at the University of British Columbia. In July and August specimens of a Tingid, *Dictyonota fuliginosa* Costa, were also beaten from this plant; determination of the Tingid has been verified by Prof. C. J. Drake of the United States National Museum. This capture appears to be the first record of this insect in the Americas, although the related *D. tricornis* (Schrank) occurs in eastern Canada and the eastern United States. *D. fuliginosus* is a common insect on broom in Europe and since this plant has been introduced into British Columbia, it seems probable that this insect has also been introduced. Broom was abundant at Beacon Hill, Victoria in 1911 (J. Davidson via G. J. Spencer, *pers. comm.*), and was probably introduced by the early English settlers between 1890 and 1900. Broom is now widely scattered in the lower Fraser Valley and on Vancouver Island; it also occurs in the lower Interior of the Province, but in the latter seems to bear little insect life.

The broom Mirid collected in this study was the introduced *Melanotrichus virescens* (D. & S.) and this was found to be very abundant, yet it has not previously been taken on the mainland. Downes (1957) records

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<sup>2</sup> *M. virescens* (D. & S.) = *M. concolor* of Downes.

taking *M. virescens*<sup>2</sup> on Vancouver Island and I have seen specimens from Victoria, Nanaimo and Cowichan. Thus, although *D. fuliginosa* has not previously been recorded from the area in question, it is probably not a recent introduction.

In the Heteroptera in Canada and the United States, at least 90 species appear to be Holarctic, or at least, are recorded from the Palaearctic and the Nearctic regions. A number of these appear to have been introduced into one of the areas. Species almost certainly introduced into the Nearctic and occurring in British Columbia include: *Megalonotus chiragra* (F.), *Nabis major* Costa, *Heterotoma meriopterum* Scop., *Campyloneura virgula* Fieb., *Dicyphus pallidicornis* (Fieb.), and *Blepharidopterus angulatus* (Fall.). These introduced insects may have come in on plants, for example *Dicyphus pallidicornis* on foxglove (*Digitalis*) (Downes, 1957) or they may have come in by other means as in ballast, suggested for *Megalonotus chiragra* by Slater & Sweet (1958). However, these are the few exceptions and most of the other 'Holarctic' species need critical examination, since most if not all of the non-arctic species, with a wide distribution would appear to be endemic rather than introduced. A critical examination of a few of these has shown that the Old and New World representatives are not conspecific.

### References

- Downes, W., 1957, Notes on some Hemiptera which have been introduced into British Columbia, Proc. B.C. Ent. Soc. 54: 11-13.  
Slater, J. A. & M. Sweet, 1958, The occurrence of *Megalonotus chiragra* (F.) in the Eastern United States with notes on its biology and ecology (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae). Bull. Brooklyn Ent. Soc. 53: 102-107.