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Contribution to Pentatomoidea (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomomorpha) fauna of Tartous with a new record for Syria

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ABSTRACT. A three-year survey of species in the Superfamily Pentatomoidea was conducted during March and November of 2018 through 2020 in Tartous Province, Syria. The identified specimens belonging to four families; i.e. Pentatomidae (21 species), Scutelleridae (2 species), Dinidoridae and Cydnidae each with one species. This is the first faunistic study on the Pentatomoidea in the coastal area of Syria, Tartous. The results represented the first records of *Tritomegas sexmaculatus* (Rambur, 1839) and its host plants in Tartous, here considered as a newly recorded species for fauna of Syria.

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Introduction

The Superfamily Pentatomoidea (Heteroptera) has a global fauna of ca. 7200 species in 15 families (Henry, 2017). Pentatomidae Leach, 1815 (stink bugs) are the most specious group (4700 species in 900 genera (Henry, 2009) with 953 species in the Palaearctic region (Rider, 2006; Aukema et al., 2013). Scutelleridae Leach, 1815 has also a global fauna of 450 species in ca. 80 genera (Henry, 2009) with 180 species in the Palaearctic region. Cydnidae with almost 700 species in 80 genera, worldwide (Lis, 2013), represented by five subfamilies and more than 37 genera the Palaearctic region (Lis, 1994, 1999; Pluot-Sigwalt & Lis, 2008). The Pentatomoidea has been poorly studied in Syria with a primary focus on species that are pests of cereal crops; e.g., *Aelia* spp., *Eurygaster* spp. (El Bouhssini et al., 2002). El-Hariri (1971) listed the recorded species of this group that mainly based on Stichel (1962). Previous surveys of this group in Syria include the works of Vidal (1950), Reuter (1980), Hoberlandt (1984, 1997) and Derjanschi & Péricart (2005). The current study provides the first survey of Pentatomoidea species in Tartous Province, western part of Syria.

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Material and methods

Specimens were collected from March to November, 2018–2020, from three locations in Tartous Province, Syria; i.e., Al-Jemaseh, (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28.0m), Wadi Al-Shater (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2m) and Dreikish (34°53′46″N, 36°7′52″E, 550m). Collections were made using light traps, sweep net or by hand directly from plants growing in cultivated and non-cultivated sites. Tartous Province is situated in western Syria, and comprises roughly half of Syria's Mediterranean coastline. Inland, the terrain is mountainous, comprising a section of the Syrian Coastal Mountain Range (Fig. 1).

Determination of specimens were done according to species were done according to Rider (2006) and Ribes & Pagola-Carte (2013) (Pentatomidae and Scutelleridae); Wener (2010) (Cydnidae) and Lis & Kocorek (1997) (Dinidoridae). Voucher specimens were deposited at the Tartous Center for Scientific Agricultural Research in Tartous, Syria.

Figure 1. Map of Tartous Province, Syria.

Results

A total of 25 species belonging to four families; i.e. Pentatomidae (21 species), Scutelleridae (2), Dinidoridae (1) and Cydnidae (1) were collected and identified as follows:

Family Cydnidae Billberg, 1820

Subfamily Sehirinae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Tribe Sehirini Amyot & Serville, 1843

Genus *Tritomegas* Amyot & Serville, 1843

Tritomegas sexmaculatus* (Rambur, 1839) (Fig. 2)

Material examined: 1♂, 3♀♀, Syria, Tartous (34°53′46″N, 36°7′52″E, 550 m), 19.V.2020, on Mulberry (*Morus* sp.), leg. J. Ali, Y. Ali.

Distribution: *Europe* - Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia Hercegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Turkey, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Liechtenstein, Macedonia, Moldavia, Montenegro, Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine. *Asia* - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Turkey, Georgia and Iran (Protić, 2001; Aukema et al., 2007; Bantock, 2011).

Diagnosis: *Tritomegas sexmaculatus* is very similar to *T. bicolor* (Linnaeus, 1758), can be distinguished by the following characters (Werner, 2010; Bantock, 2011): White streak along side of pronotum is long and uniformly tapered in *T. sexmaculatus* (Fig. 3A); short in *T. bicolor*, with narrow black streak separating it from pronotum edge posteriorly. White mark at base of forewing tapers uniformly towards pronotum in *T. sexmaculatus*, while it is inwardly 'barbed' at the base in *T. bicolor*. Wing membrane black in *T. sexmaculatus* (Fig. 3B) brownish in *T. bicolor* (Bantock, 2011).

Figure 2. Female of *Tritomegas sexmaculatus* (Rambur, 1839). Dorsal view.

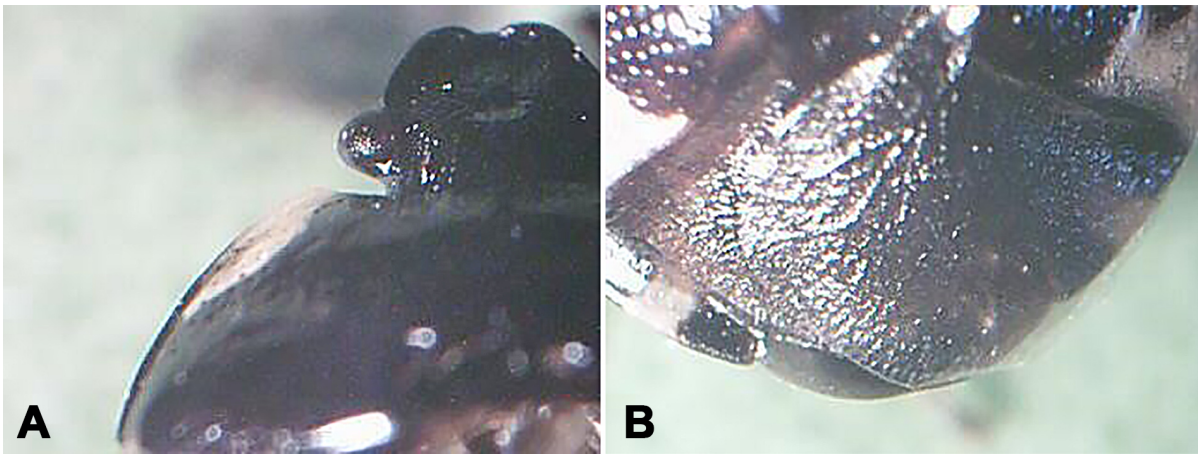

Figure 3. *Tritomegas sexmaculatus* (Rambur, 1839). **A.** Pronotum; **B.** Wing membrane.

Family Dinidoridae Stål, 1868

Subfamily Dinidorinae Stål, 1868

Tribe Dinidorini Stål, 1868

Genus *Coridius* Illger, 1807

***Coridius viduatus* (Fabricius, 1794)**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 15.VIII.2018, on *Citrullus lanatus*, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Family Pentatomidae Leach, 1815

Subfamily Asopinae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Tribe Asopini Amyot & Serville, 1843

Genus *Zicrona* Amyot & Serville, 1843

***Zicrona caerulea* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 2♂♂, 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 25.IV.2018, on *Rubus* sp., leg. J. Ammar.

Subfamily Pentatominae Leach, 1815

Tribe Aelini Douglas & Scott, 1865

Genus *Aelia* Fabricius, 1803

***Aelia acuminata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 1♂, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 2.IV.2018 on *Triticum aestivum*, leg. A.Y. Ali; 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 23.IV.2020, on unidentified grasses, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Neottiglossa* Kirby, 1837

***Neottiglossa bifida* (A. Costa, 1847)**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 17.V.2020, on wild Poaceae, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Tribe Carpocorini Mulsant & Rey, 1866

Genus *Carpocoris* Kolenati, 1846

Subgenus *Carpocoris* Kolenati, 1846

***Carpocoris coreanus* Distant, 1899**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 12.VI.2018, on *Verbascum antari*, leg. A.Y. Ali.

***Carpocoris mediterraneus* Tamanini, 1958**

Material examined: 2♂♂, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 1.VI.2018, on *Carthamus tinctorius*, leg. A.Y. Ali; 1♂, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 20.V.2019, on *Echinops* sp. (Asteraceae), leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Codophila* Mulsant & Rey, 1866

***Codophila maculicollis* (Dallas, 1851)**

Material examined: 1♂ 2♀♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 25.VIII.2019, on *Echinops* sp., leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Dolycoris* Mulsant & Rey, 1866

***Dolycoris baccarum* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 2♂♂, 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 29.VI.2019, on *Solanum melongena*, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Holcostethus* Fieber, 1860

***Holcostethus strictus strictus* (Fabricius, 1803)**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 29.V.2020, on unidentified weeds, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Staria* Dohrn, 1860

***Staria lunata* (Hahn, 1835)**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 29.IX.2018, on unidentified Apiaceae, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Tribe Halyini Amyot & Serville, 1843

Genus *Apodiphus* Spinola, 1837

***Apodiphus amygdali* (Germar, 1817)**

Material examined: 2♂♂, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 22.V.2020, on *Juglans regia*, leg. H. Khalil.

Tribe Nezarini Atkinson, 1888

Genus *Nezara* Amyot & Serville, 1843

***Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 2♂♂, 4♀♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 25.IX.2019, on *Phaseolus vulgaris* and *Solanum melongena*, leg. A. Khalil.

Tribe Pentatomini Leach, 1815

Genus *Rhaphigaster* Laporte, 1833

***Rhaphigaster nebulosa* (Poda, 1761)**

Material examined: 1♂, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 2.VI.2019, on *Eriobotrya japonica*, leg. A.Y. Ali; 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 3.VII.2020, a single specimen from light trap, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Tribe Piezodorini Atkinson, 1888

Genus *Piezodorus* Fieber, 1860

***Piezodorus lituratus* (Fabricius, 1794)**

Material examined: 1♂, 3♀♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 22.IV.2018, on *Triticum* sp., leg. A.Y. Ali.

Tribe Strachiini Mulsant & Rey, 1866

Genus *Eurydema* Laporte, 1833

Subgenus *Eurydema* Laporte, 1833

***Eurydema* (*Eurydema*) *ornata* (Linnaeus, 1758)**

Material examined: 1♂, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 23.V.2018, on *Solanum elaeagnifolium*, leg. A.Y. Ali. 3♂♂, 3♀♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 27.V.2020, on *Capparis* sp. and an unidentified weed, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Subgenus *Horvatheurydema* Dupuis, 1951

***Eurydema* (*Horvatheurydema*) *fieberi* Fieber, 1837**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 10.V.2019, on unidentified weeds, leg. A.Y. Ali.

***Eurydema* (*Horvatheurydema*) *rugulosa* (Dohrn, 1860)**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 3.VI.2019, on unidentified weeds, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Stenozygum* Fieber, 1861

***Stenozygum coloratum* (Klug, 1845)**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 13.VII.2019, on *Capparis* sp., leg. A.Y. Ali; 2♂♂, ♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18 m), 13.VII.2019, on *Capparis* sp., leg. A.Y. Ali; 1♂, Syria, Tartous (34°53′46" N, 36°7′52" E, 550 m), 23.VII. 2018, on *Capparis* sp., leg. A.Y. Ali.

Tribe Sciocorini Amyot & Serville, 1843

Genus *Dyroderes* spinola, 1837

***Dyroderes umbraculatus* (Fabricius, 1775)**

Material examined: 1♂, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 23.IV.2020, on unidentified weeds, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Subfamily Podopinae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Tribe *Graphosoma*tini Mulsant & Rey, 1865

Genus *Ancyrosoma* Amyot & Serville, 1843

***Ancyrosoma leucogrammes* (Gmelin, 1789)**

Material examined: 3♂♂, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 23.V.2020, collected from flowers of toothpick weed (*Ammi visnaga*), leg. A.Y. Ali; 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 27.V.2020, on unidentified weeds, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Genus *Graphosoma* Laporte, 1833

Subgenus *Graphosoma* Laporte, 1833

***Graphosoma inexpectatum* (Carapezza & Jindra, 2008)**

Material examined: 1♂, 2♀♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), collected from flowers of toothpick Weed (*Ammi visnaga*) and weeds, 25.V.2019, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Tribe Podopini Amyot & Serville, 1843

Genus *Podops* Laporte, 1833

***Podops* (*Opocrates*) *rectidens* Horváth, 1883**

Material examined: 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°86′59″N, 35°90′59″E, 18.2 m), 20.V.2020, Collected on the stone, leg. Y. Ali.

Family Scutelleridae Leach, 1815

Subfamily Elvisurinae Stål, 1872

Tribe Elvisurini Stål, 1872

Genus *Solenosthedium* Spinola, 1837

***Solenosthedium bilunatum* (Lefebvre, 1827)**

Material examined: 2♂♂, Syria, Tartous (34°53′46" N, 36°7′52" E, 550 m), 15.IX.2020, on *Myrtus communis*, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Subfamily Eurygastrinae Amyot & Serville, 1843

Tribe Eurygastrini Amyot & Serville, 1843

Genus *Eurygaster* Laporte, 1833

***Eurygaster integriceps* Puton, 1881**

Material examined: 2♂♂, 1♀, Syria, Tartous (34°43′59″N, 35°58′34″E, 28 m), 15.IV.2018, on *Triticum* sp. and *Hordeum vulgare*, leg. A.Y. Ali.

Discussion

This study provides the first survey of Pentatomoidea species for Tartous province. *Tritomegas sexmaculatus* is a new record for the fauna of Syria and it may have been introduced into Syria from the neighboring countries Turkey, Georgia and Iran (Protić, 2001; Aukema et al., 2007), where the bug has already established, or the bugs might have migrated by active flight. It has been reported that the main host plant of *T. sexmaculatus* is *Ballota nigra* L. (Werner, 2010). We found that the nymphs and adults observed feeding on fruits of Mulberry (*Morus* sp.) and the bugs developed successfully to adulthood. The most frequently collected species were the agricultural pests *E. integriceps* and *N. viridula* (Pentatomidae). These pests cause serious economic damage to various crops (McPherson & McPherson, 2000). Other species of the Subfamily Asopinae are predators and help to suppress pest species including other species of pentatomids species (De Clercq, 2008). The total number of Pentatomoidea species reported in the current study is not exhaustive for Tartous Province. More studies from different localities will be required to understand the true diversity of Pentatomoidea fauna of the region and of Syria.

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Conflict of Interests

The author declares that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this paper.

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مطالعه بالاخانواده Pentatomoidea (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomomorpha) در استان طرطوس به همراه یک گزارش جدید برای سوریه

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چکیـده: گونه‌های بالاخانوادهٔ Pentatomoidea به مدت سه سال، طی ماه‌های مارس تا نوامبر سال‌های ۲۰۱۸ الی ۲۰۲۰ در استان طرطوس سوریه مورد بررسی قرار گرفت. نمونه‌های شناسایی شده متعلق به چهار خانواده بود: Pentatomidae (۲۱ گونه)، Scutelleridae (دو گونه)، Dinidoridae و Cydnidae هر کدام یک گونه. این اولین مطالعه فونستیک بالاخانوادهٔ Pentatomoidea در منطقه ساحلی سوریه، طرطوس است. نتایج نشان‌دهندهٔ اولین گزارش گونهٔ *Tritomegas sexmaculatus* (Rambur, 1839) و گیاهان میزبان آن در طرطوس است که به عنوان گزارش جدید برای فون سوریه در نظر گرفته شده است.

واژگـان کلیدی: Pentatomidae، Scutelleridae، Dinidoridae، Cydnidae، فون سوریه