

Short communication

Confirmation of *Erthesina fullo* (Thunberg, 1783) (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) in Albania and its host plants

ROLAND LUPOLI^{1*}, TORSTEN VAN DER HEYDEN² , PARIDE DIOLI³ 

¹ 79 rue Jules Ferry, F-94120 Fontenay-sous-bois, France

² Immenweide 83, D-22523 Hamburg, Germany

³ Museo civico di Storia Naturale, Sezione di Entomologia, Corso Venezia 55, I-20121 Milan, Italy

*corresponding author: lupoli@free.fr

Abstract. *Erthesina fullo* (Thunberg, 1783) is recorded for the first time in Europe. Collected specimens in 2020 from Albania were identified by comparing the length of their rostrum. This species can acclimatize on two local trees, namely *Tilia cordata* Miller, 1768 and *Ziziphus jujuba* Miller, 1768.

Key words: Heteroptera, true bugs, Halyini, *Erthesina fullo*, *Erthesina acuminata*, Yellow Spotted Stink Bug, invasive pest, *Tilia cordata*, *Ziziphus jujuba*, Albania, Thailand.

When we published the note « *Erthesina* Spinola, 1837 – a new alien genus for Europe found in Albania (Hemiptera: Pentatomidae) » (Lupoli et al., 2020), we were only able to review the photos of the dorsal side of the specimens. These did not make it possible to separate the two species *Erthesina fullo* (Thunberg, 1783) and *E. acuminata* Dallas, 1851 with certainty.

To distinguish *E. fullo* from *E. acuminata*, it is preferable to observe the length of the rostrum on the ventral side. One of us (P.D.) was able to examine specimens from Albania (Fig. 1). One can see that the rostrum of specimens from Albania is short (on the left) which corresponds to *E. fullo*, while it is longer in *E. acuminata* (on the right, a specimen from Thailand).

Therefore, we can confirm with certainty that this introduced species in Albania is *E. fullo* and that it does indeed come from South-East Asia.

Material examined (all specimens in coll. P.D.)

***Erthesina fullo*:** ALBANIA: Durrës, 41°18'58"49N, 19°29'32.82"E, in a garden, VIII.2020 on the bark of *Tilia cordata* Miller, around 2 m above the ground. 5 exx., leg. A. Ndoni; ibidem, in the same garden, IX.2020 on *Ziziphus jujuba* Miller, 1.5 m above the ground, 3 exx., leg. A. Ndoni (Fig. 1, left). CHINA: Yunnan, Ninglang env. 10.VII.1992, 1 ex., leg. S. Becvar; ibidem, Luangzu, Guilin, 9.VII.1990, leg. R. Sauer; VIETNAM: Hanoi capital, Island in Red River, 13.VI.2015, 2 exx., anonymous local collector.

***E. acuminata*:** THAILAND: Chiang Mai, Doi Pah Hom Poke Mae Eye, without date, 1 ex., leg. E.-A. Piauth (Fig. 1, right).

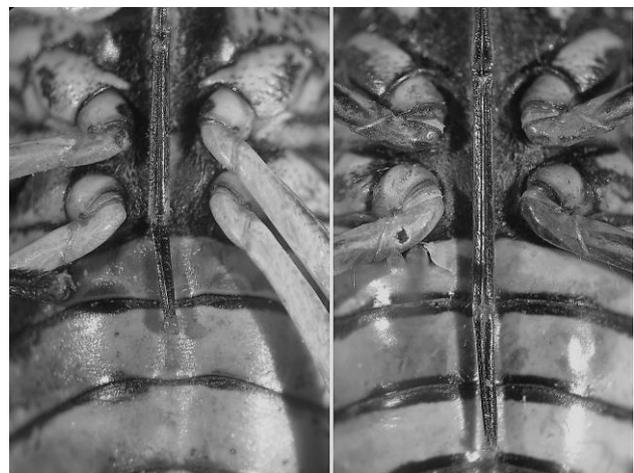


Fig. 1. Ventral parts of the abdomen showing rostrum length: *Erthesina fullo* from Albania (left); *Erthesina acuminata* from Thailand (right) (photos: P. Dioli).

Discussion. Besides confirming the presence of *E. fullo* in Europe since four years now, the specimens collected in Albania show that it can acclimatize and develop on some plants already present (*T. cordata* and *Z. jujuba*), especially in gardens and cultivated areas. It should not be forgotten, that some nymphs were also photographed, which presupposes a complete cycle of development (Lupoli et al., 2020). These facts lead to a strict control of its presence to avoid infestations on agricultural crops which, in recent years, can be caused more and more frequently by alien stink bugs.

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References

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