

**THE FIRST RECORD OF GYNAIKOTHRIPS FICORUM MARCHAL, 1908
(THYSANOPTERA) IN SLOVAKIA**

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ABSTRACT: The paper presents the first record on occurrence of *Gynaikothrips ficorum* Marchal, 1908 (Thysanoptera) in Slovakia. The species was observed in the school glasshouse at the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, Bratislava, Slovakia.

KEYWORDS: *Gynaikothrips ficorum*, Thysanoptera, Slovakia, greenhouses

Introduction

Diversity of thrips fauna has been recently undisputedly affected by global economic trends. More intensive trade on horticulture products and decorative plants corresponds with introduction of new species into national fauna often followed by infiltration or even invasion process. Despite plenty of legislative tools, complex control and monitoring of pathogenic insects, sometimes being classified as quarantine pests, have been applied there is permanently a wide spectre of ways how thrips may cross state borders. However mild climate countries, such as Slovakia, does not provide suitable ecological conditions for many exotic species and particularly in wintertime pests are able to survive only in artificially heated habitats, for instance in glasshouses, flats and houses.

In former Czechoslovakia *Gynaikothrips ficorum* appeared at the end of 1980's when it was introduced into some glasshouses in Opava, the Czech Republic, on young plants of *Ficus nitida* imported from Cuba (PELIKÁN, 1991). Soon several specimens were recorded in greenhouses in Brno, the Czech Republic, later analysed and determined by Dr. Jaroslav Pelikán (PELIKÁN, 1991).

G. ficorum has not been found in Slovakia yet (FEDOR et al., 2004) and this is the first official record on its occurrence.

Gynaikothrips ficorum MARCHAL, 1908

Material examined. SW Slovakia, Bratislava, Mlynská dolina, in the school glasshouse of the Faculty of Natural Sciences, Comenius University, 5.V.2007, 2 females on *Ficus* sp., later being recorded more frequently at the same site. All leg. and det. P. Fedor. First record from Slovakia.

Distribution. Originally C. America, nowadays pantropic cosmopolite (PELIKÁN, 1991).

Remarks. Common pest on *Ficus nitida* and other species of *Ficus*, where it lives on leaves, sometimes flowers. The species is supposed to occur in glasshouses, houses and flats on its host plants throughout Slovakia. For more details on biology, ecology and economic importance of *G. ficorum* see the paper by PELIKÁN (1991).

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References

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