CZU: 595.75(478)

NEW SPECIES OF *MACROSTELES* (HEMIPTERA, AUCHENORRHYNCHA) IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

Grozdeva Svetlana
Institute of Zoology, Chisinau, Republic of Moldova
E-mail: svetlana.grozdeva.gargalyk@gmail.com

The genera *Macrosteles* Fieber, 1866 is included in Tribe Macrostelini Kirkaldi, 1906. The largest genus in this tribe, Macrosteles, was established by Fieber (1866) with *Cicada sexnotata* Fallen as its type species. This leafhopper genus contains more than 80 species. The species of the genera *Macrosteles* are distributed in Palaearctic (Europe, Asia, North Africa), Nearctic (USA), Ethiopian (South Africa), Oriental (China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea) regions (Zhang Yalin et al. 2013). Refering to the data of fauna of the Republic of Moldova, there is information about six species: *Macrosteles fieberi* (Edwards, 1889), *M. halophilus* (Horvath, 1903), *M. laevis* (Ribaut, 1927), *M. salsolae* (Puton, 1872), *M. sexnotatus* (Fallen, 1806) and *M. viridigriseus* (Edwards, 1922).

Macrosteles is a difficult and diverse genus, most of its species are similar to each other by external signs, so it is impossible to identify them without dissection. We are using male aedeagus for the exact determination of the species. The representatives of the genus are generally slim insects with dimensions of body about 3-6 mm. The head and the pronotum are usually at the same width.

The research was realized in the northwestern part of the Republic of Moldova at the Scientific Station of Institute of Zoology in Brînzeni commune, Edineț district. The insects were collected in the period from May 25 to September 7 of 2021 in two traps with white and ultraviolet light. During the analysis of them, there were found some of well-known and spread species of genus Macrosteles, and also two species, that are new for the fauna: *Macrosteles frontalis* (Scott, 1875), monophage, on *Equisetum palustre* and some other horsetail species and *M. quadripunctulatus* (Kirschbaum, 1868), oliophage, on Asteraceae. The genus *Macrosteles* is important to agriculture as it contains species that feed directly on plant fluids and transmit plant pathogens, as for example *Aster yellows phytoplasma*; also this group of insects is very sensitive to the conditions of environment and reflects the specific characteristics of landscape in detail (Anufriev, 1968). The examined material is deposited in the collection of Museum of Institute of Zoology.

Acknowledgments: The study was performed under the project Nr. 20.80009.7007.02.

Keywords: *Macrosteles frontalis*, *Macrosteles quadripunctulatus*, determination, Moldovian fauna, new species.