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NOTE

Celticecis, a Genus of Gall Midges (Diptera: Cecidomyiidae), Newly Reported for the Western Palearctic Region

Many Holarctic genera of trees and shrubs are host over much of their ranges to particular genera of Cecidomyiidae. As examples, willows host gall midges of *Rabdophaga* and *Iteomyia*, oaks host *Macrodiplosis* and *Polystepha*, and birches host *Semudobia* in both the Nearctic and Palearctic Regions. So many instances of this pattern are known for gall midges that when a gall midge genus is recorded from only part of the range of a Holarctic plant genus, the partial absence may be suspected to reflect a lack of collecting. There are exceptions, one being beech. This tree is infested by gall midges of the genus *Mikiola* in Europe and Japan but apparently not in North America. *Mikiola* may once have occured in North America and become extinct due to the relatively narrow bottleneck beech passed through during the Pleistocene when it was restricted to southern North America.

Hackberries, the genus *Celtis*, are hosts in North America to at least 10 species of gall midges of the genus *Celticecis* that cause complex leaf and twig galls of sometimes bizarre shape (Gagné 1989, The Plant-Feeding Gall Midges of North America, Cornell University Press, Ithaca, New York, xi and 356 pp., 4 pls.). Some of these species were described 100 years ago, although they were combined into a single genus only recently (Gagné 1983, Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 85: 435–438). *Celticecis* is known from Japan (Moser 1965, New York State Museum and Science Service Bulletin 402: i–iv, 1–95 (as *Phytophaga*); Yukawa and Tsuda 1987, Kontyû 55: 123–131), which extends the range of *Celticecis* into the eastern Palearctic. One of us (JCM), pursuing a long-term interest in hackberry galls, obtained from Prof. K. Browicz of the Institute of Dendrology, Kórnik, Poland, galled leaves of *Celtis tournefortii* Lam. collected in Hisarcik, Kayseri, Turkey. On the upper surface of the leaf the galls are about 1.5 mm in height and width and consist of an outer, raised ring and a central, rounded cone protruding from the the center of the ring. On the lower surface of the leaf the gall is a simple convexity about 1.0 mm in height by 1.5 mm in width. Second instars of a presumably undescribed species of *Celticecis* were extracted from these galls. This new record extends the natural range of *Celticecis* into the western Palearctic. That *Celticecis* has not yet been found in relatively well-collected Europe may mean that it became extinct there during the Pleistocene, as might have the gall midges on beech in North America. The galls and the larvae excised from them are deposited in the National Museum of Natural History, Washington, DC.

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