

OBSERVATIONS ON IMPORTANT ONION (*ALLIUM CEPA* L.) PEST: *EXOSOMA THORACICUM* (COLEOPTERA: CHRYSOMELIDAE) (REDTENBACHER, 1843)

İnanç Özgen 1, Nedim Gültekin 2, Ramazan Yücekaya 2, Aykut Topdemir 1

Short Note

Exosoma thoracicum (Redtenbacher, 1843) have caused damage in the onion fields of Malatya province of Turkey. In this study, information about the damage situation has been given. In the following years; detailed studies on it's management and damage are required of this species.

Keywords: *Exosoma thoracicum*, Onion, Damage, Malatya, Turkey

1 Introduction

The insects of the beetle family Chrysomelidae are mostly known as leaf beetles, and inside over 37,000 species in more than 2,500 genera, making up one of the largest and most commonly encountered of all beetle families (1). The adults feed on living plant material, usually consuming leaves and larvae feed on leaves and roots and many species are serious pests (2). In Turkey; seven hundred and seventy-six species are given (3). This study was reported that *Exosoma thoracicum* caused significant damage to onion fields. The observations were made in the Yazihan District of Malatya (Turkey) in 2018 (April-May) The material was collected by sweeping net. Observations were made on the plant in relation to the damage situation.

2 Results

Subfamily: Galerucinae

Genus: *Exosoma* Jacoby, 1903

Exosoma thoracicum (Redtenbacher, 1843) (Figure 1).

Material examined: 88 exs, Malatya, Yazihan, 05.V.2018. leg Ozgen.

Distribution in Turkey: Adana, Diyarbakır, Mardin, Urfa, Van (4-5)

Distribution in the world: Albania, Greece, Israel, Iran, Syria, Turkey (6)

Remarks: *Exosoma thoracicum* (Redtenbacher) was firstly found in Malatya province. The species has been recorded only from three Turkish regions as Mediterranean Region, East Anatolia Region and South-Eastern Anatolian Region up to now (4-5). In this study; it has been observed that *E. thoracicum* species prefer the sunny air for feeding, which they feed gluttonously on the part of the onion starting from the tip leaves (Figure 2). It has been determined that they prefer fresh leaves from inside to outwards. 8-10 individuals per plant were shown to be intensely fed. According to the results of this study, it is seen that they especially prefer onion when it is fed with gluttony, weeds and culture plants in the environment outside the onion plant. In later years; the studies of bioecology and feeding behavior is important for the economy of commercial onion cultivation.



Figure 1. Habitus of *Exosoma thoracicum* (Redtenbacher, 1843)



Figure 1. The feeding on onion of *Exosoma thoracicum* (Redtenbacher, 1843)

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3 References

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Authors' addresses

İnanç Özgen 1

Firat University, Engineering Faculty,
Bioengineering Department
Elazığ, Turkey
inancozgen@gmail.com

Nedim Gültekin 2

Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Livestock,
Yazlıhan, Malatya

Ramazan Yücekaya 2

Republic of Turkey Ministry of Food,
Agriculture and Livestock,
Yazlıhan, Malatya

Aykut Topdemir 1

Firat University, Engineering Faculty,
Bioengineering Department
Elazığ, Turkey