

NEW DATA ON QUERCUS GALL MIDGES – JANETIA CERRIS (DIPTERA: CECIDOMYIIDAE) IN ORNAMENTAL GREEN LANDSCAPES OF WESTERN ROMANIAN

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Turkey oak (*Quercus cerris*) provide important ecosystem services and are considered of high value both as ornamental trees and as a forest component. Due to recent climate changes, numerous reports containing detailed information about the situation of turkey oak in different countries have been published. For this reason, we conducted a small survey to present the recently invasive pests that cause significant damage on ornamental trees in western Romanian parks and green landscapes.

In 2020 – 2021 periods numerous galls and leaf malformations were observed on *Quercus cerris* trees in the area of the University of Life Sciences Park. So, in 2022, a survey was conducted in the city to determine the presence of *Janetia cerris* gall midges. This is a small insect belonging the order Diptera, family Cecidomyiidae.

The family Cecidomyiidae is one of the most species-rich families of Diptera. In Europe, this family includes 1800 valid species in 270 genera. *Janetia cerris* is reported on *Quercus cerris* for the first time in Western Romania.

Our investigations were carried out during 2022 – 2023 in 4 observation points in parks and green urban spaces in the city of Timișoara. During our investigation we used the same collecting method at each sample points. We noted in the protocol the geographical characteristics of biotopes and the local abundance of species.

The survey indicates a high infestation level with gall midges in all 4 observation points that exceeds 75% of all analyzed samples. The attack can be recognized by the galls that appear on the upper side of the leaf, which have a sharp appearance, are about 2 mm long and lack pubescence; while on the lower side of the leaf, the gall is prominent, up to 5 mm in diameter, with long, yellow-brown hairs.

Photos with larvae, galls on leaves, identification keys and brief description for this species are presented in this paper.

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