

CICADELLA MELISSAE (CURTIS) AND IDIOCERUS  
DECIMUSQUARTUS SCHRANK (HOMOPTERA :  
CICADELLIDAE) ESTABLISHED IN NEW ZEALAND.

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SUMMARY

*Cicadella melissae* (Curtis) and *Idiocerus decimusquartus* Schrank are recorded as established in New Zealand on various species of Labiatae and on Lombardy Poplar respectively. *Hoheria sexstylosa* is recorded as a food-plant of *Batrachomorphus* sp.

*Cicadella melissae* (Curtis) — Typhlocybinae

This northern hemisphere species is the first of the genus to be recorded from New Zealand. *Cicadella* Dumeril, of which *Eupteryx* Curtis is a synonym, is close to *Ribautiana* Zachvatkin and *Edwardiana* Zachvatkin (see key in Dumbleton, 1964) but may be distinguished by the presence of four free apical veins in the hind wing. *C. melissae* is readily recognised by the transversely barred appearance of the maculated tegmina, the three black spots on the vertex of the head, and the crossed apices of the two retrograde apical processes of the aedeagus.

Specimens were collected in Christchurch (L.J.D., 28.i.66) on the following food-plants belonging to the Labiatae: Sage (*Salvia officinalis* L.), Clary Sage *Salvia sclarea* L.), Lemon Balm *Melissa officinalis* L.), Mint (*Mentha* sp.), Hore Hound (*Marrubium vulgare* L.), and Cat Mint (*Nepeta cataria* L.).

*Idiocerus decimusquartus* Schrank — Idiocerinae

Specimens were identified by Mr. W. J. Knight of the British Museum as this northern hemisphere species. Nymphs were collected on Lombardy Poplar (*Populus nigra* var. *italica* Dur.) at Hanmer (L.J.D., 20.xi.64) and adults on the same food-plant at Christchurch (L.J.D., 11.xii.64 and 1.ii.65).

The only other species of the genus previously recorded in New Zealand (Evans, 1963), but without indication of food-plant or locality, is *I. distinguendus* Kirschbaum which is here recorded from White Poplar (*Populus alba* var. *nivea* Ait.) at Kaiapoi (A. Healy, 8.xi.65, nymphs; L.J.D., 3.ii.66, adults) and Lincoln (L.J.D., 1.ii.66, adults). These two introduced species may be separated as follows:

Pronotum covered with transverse striae, apex of aedeagus long and pointed, the two retrograde processes long and slender . . . . *decimusquartus* Schrank.  
Pronotum without transverse striae; apex aedeagus short and rounded, the two retrograde processes short . . . .  
. . . . *distinguendus* Kirschbaum.

**Batrachomorplus sp. — Jassinae**

This undetermined species was recorded by Evans (1965) without indication of locality or food-plant. Adults and nymphs are both uniformly green in colour. The nymphal setae are widened and truncate apically. The species may have been introduced from Australia but the food-plant recorded here is a native one.

Females were collected by sweeping in Riccarton Bush (L.J.D., 8.ii.64) and a male was bred from a nymph collected on **Hoheria sexstylosa** Descaine (Malvaceae) (L.J.D., 19.iii.66). Other nymphs were collected from **H. sexstylosa** in Christchurch (A. D. Lowe, 1.iii.66; A. Healy, 3.iii.66).

REFERENCES

- DUMBLETON, L. J., 1964: New Records of Hemiptera-Homoptera and a Key to the Leaf Hoppers (Cicadellidae—Typhlocybinae) in New Zealand. **N.Z. Jl Sci.** 7: 571-8.
- EVANS, J. W., 1963: The Zoogeography of New Zealand Leaf Hoppers and Frog Hoppers (Insecta, Homoptera, Cicadelloidea and Cercopoidea). **Proc. R. Soc. N.Z. (Zool.)** 3 (9): 85-91.