

Range extensions of *Ancistrocerus gazella* (Hymenoptera: Eumenidae) and *Myomantis caffra* (Mantodea: Mantidae)

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***Ancistrocerus gazella* (Hymenoptera: Eumenidae)**

Females of the solitary wasp *Ancistrocerus gazella* (Panzer) provision tubular nest cells with small larvae and prepupae of Lepidoptera. *Ancistrocerus gazella* occurs naturally in Northern Europe, was recently introduced into North America and was first collected in New Zealand in 1988 (Berry 1989). It has been abundant throughout Central Otago since at least 1989 (Harris 1994). In the North Island, *A. gazella* had reached Taranaki, Wanganui and Wellington by 2000 (Harris 2002). Mr. J. M. Cox informed me (*personal communication*) that it had reached the vicinity of Kaitaia by 2002, when he first found it nesting on Clearwater Farm, Te Kora Road, Peria. In the southern South Island, *A. gazella* had reached the Mckenzie Country by 2003, was found nesting in the walls of Ohau Lodge, Lake Ohau, in March 2003, but by summer 2004 had not arrived in the Tasman Valley or in Mt. Cook Village. It was absent from coastal East Otago until this year, when on 4 April 2004 it was found to be nesting in walls of houses at Cliffs Rd., St. Clair, and on 6 April in Skibo St., Kew. On 24 April 2004 it was found nesting at 109 Chain Hills Rd., Taieri, and on 20 April 2004 it was found nesting at Waiholo, South Otago.

Ancistrocerus gazella at St. Clair was observed preying on final instar larvae of *Hierodoris atychioides* Butler (Lepidoptera: Oecophoridae) on an exotic cedar, with the family Oecophoridae constituting a new prey record.

Remarks

Several newly established exotic invertebrates have repeated this pattern of invasion, becoming widespread and common in Central Otago before appearing in Dunedin. This was the case for the Australian spiders *Lampona cylindrata* (L. Koch) (Lamponidae) and *Supunna picta* (L. Koch) (Corinnidae), and the Asian paper wasp, *Polistes chinensis* Fabricius, although the latter has yet to become established in Dunedin.

***Myomantis caffra* (Mantodea: Mantidae)**

Myomantis caffra Saussure, a South African species, is spreading rapidly throughout New Zealand, where it breeds more quickly than the native species, *Orthodera*

novaezealandiae Colenso, and has replaced it in some Auckland suburbs. Although *M. caffra* has been present in the northern South Island since at least 2000, it has yet to appear in some rural areas of the North Island. *Myomantis caffra* was observed on shrubs in Parklands Village, Waikanae, in 2002, where *O. novaezealandiae* was then reasonably common. On 25 March 2004 and on 12 May 2004, Mrs. E. C. Harris posted me live adult *M. caffra* females she had found in the garden at 4 Westborne Tce., Wanganui. She had not seen the South African species until autumn this year. Until 2004, only *O. novaezealandiae* had been observed near the sea coast in Wanganui, where I had noticed egg cases and nymphs in relatively large numbers each year until January 2004. During field work in the area in the last 4 years, I had not seen *M. caffra* or its egg cases. It will be interesting to observe the relative numbers of the two mantids in those localities in the years ahead.

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References

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