

## Brief report

### ***Anoecia vagans* (Koch) (Hemiptera, Aphididae) on roots of spring wheat in Finland**

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Huusela-Veistola, E. & Vasarainen, A. 1999: *Anoecia vagans* (Koch) (Hemiptera, Aphididae) on roots of spring wheat in Finland. — Entomol. Fennica 10: 94.

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*Received 12 October 1998, accepted 9 June 1999*

Aphid colonies of apterous specimens of *Anoecia vagans* (Koch) were found on the roots of spring wheat (*Triticum sativum*) among plant samples taken to monitor plant pathogens of wheat in Ta: Jokioinen (6749:308) 10 September 1998. Five plants with aphid colonies (25-30 specimens per plant) were found, but roots of several other plants were injured. Infested roots were transferred to the laboratory and kept at room temperature. Two days later, alate aphids appeared. They were identified by authors as viviparous females (sexupara) of *Anoecia vagans*. Identification was confirmed by CAB Bioscience UK Centre (International Institute of Entomology).

According to Heie (1980), species of *Anoecia* alternate between *Cornus* (winter) and roots of Poaceae or Cyperaceae (summer), or remain on the summer host all year round. In Finland, *Anoecia vagans* have been found on *Cornus* in Kerimäki (Sa) and Vihti (Ab) and on roots of grasses in Janakkala (Ta) (O. Heikinheimo, pers. comm.). In addition, colonies of *Anoecia vagans* have been found on roots of *Elymus repens* and *Deschampsia flexuosa* in formicaries of *Lasius flavus* or *L. niger* in Pernå (N) (A. Albrecht, pers. comm.), but never before on roots of cereals.

The wheat plants where the aphids were found were sown (19 May 1998) in boxes and kept at +6 °C in a greenhouse.

The boxes with wheat sprouts were transferred to the field on 1 June 1998. Although an economic importance of *Anoecia vagans* has not been documented previously, they clearly injured the roots of several wheat plants. Because aphids were found late in autumn, it may be possible that they move on to sprouts of winter wheat. The importance of root herbivores is generally underestimated in plant protection studies.

*Acknowledgements.* We thank Eila Lalli who found the aphid colonies and kindly informed us about them. We are also grateful to Anders Albrecht and Osmo Heikinheimo for the information about distribution of *Anoecia vagans* in Finland.

## References

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