

***Salix aurita* — the correct food plant for *Euura cinereae* Kopelke, 1996 (Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae)**

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There is new evidence that the food plant for the Finnish population of *Euura cinereae* Kopelke, 1996 was misidentified. The correct food plant is *Salix aurita* L. Spindle-shaped stem galls on *S. aurita* caused by a species of the *Euura atra*-group are not infrequent in Northern and Central Europe. Their presence on *Salix cinerea* L. needs further confirmation.

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1. Introduction

The stem galling sawfly *Euura cinereae* Kopelke was described from eastern Finland from specimens reared by Heikki Roininen (Kopelke 1996). These specimens had been previously identified as *Euura atra* L., and their host plant as *Salix cinerea* L. (Roininen *et al.* 1993). However, Veli Vikberg and Alexey Zinovjev have never found spindle-shaped stem galls of *Euura* species on *S. cinerea*. Generally, discrimination between the *Salix* species from the challenging section *Vetrix* may be difficult. Besides, Heikki Roininen admitted that the plants in question had not appeared to be typical *S. cinerea*.

2. The collecting site

The collecting site in the Joensuu University campus was repeatedly examined in spring, summer, and autumn of 1999–2000. The site constitutes a healthy natural pine stand on partly moist soil with a rich understorey that includes birch, alder, mountain ash, and a few willow species, mostly *S. caprea* L. and *S. aurita* L., and also a few *S. phylicifolia* L. and *S. myrsinifolia* Salisb. along roadsides. The place appears to be too shady for *S. cinerea* which prefers open and wet habitats (Skvortsov 1999). *Salix cinerea* was not found at the type locality, though some bushes of it grow near the edge of the wood.

In the type locality of *E. cinereae*, *Salix aurita* can be found as shrubs ranging from “typical” low individuals 1–3 m tall to much taller plants up to 5–7 m. The tall specimens exhibited no characters deviating from the typical *S. aurita* other than their height. In their twigs, buds, leaves, and catkins (where catkins were present), all the plants were quite within the normal range of variation of *S. aurita*. Samples of the tall plants were presented to Prof. Skvortsov for identification, and he agreed that they were *S. aurita*. *Salix aurita* shrubs of that size are probably not unique: Berg (2000) specified a height of up to 7 m for *S. aurita*. However, the unusual height of the plants may have led to their initial misidentification. It is noteworthy that these particular tall specimens or similar individuals of *S. aurita* were used in multiple-choice tests by Roininen *et al.* (1993).

3. Discussion

Recently, Kopelke (1999) has recorded *Euura* spindle-like stem galls on *Salix cinerea* from two localities: Kiel in Schleswig-Holstein, Germany (2 galls) and Skutevik in Hordaland Province, Norway (54 galls). However, *S. cinerea* does not range to Hordaland, according to Jalas and Suominen (1976) and Berg (2000). At the same time, *S. aurita* is mapped for the entire Hordaland Province (Jalas & Suominen 1976). Therefore, the identification of the willow from Hordaland needs further confirmation. It might have been *S. aurita*, or some hybrid, such as *S. aurita x lapponum* reported as frequent to scattered in the coastal lowlands of W Norway by Elven (2000). Both parent species of this hybrid are food plants for species of *Euura atra*-group. *Salix aurita* does grow in Skutevik because Kopelke (1999) recorded also *Euura mucronata* (Hartig) on *S. aurita* from there.

Kopelke (1999) also listed spindle-shaped stem galls (and reared adults) of *Euura* species on *S. aurita* from seven localities in Germany,

Austria, and Norway. Veli Vikberg and Alexey Zinovjev have reared *Euura* from spindle-shaped galls collected on *S. aurita*. These galls are common on *S. aurita* in southern Finland (e.g., Ta: Janakkala) and northwestern Russia (around St. Petersburg). We have not found evidence that any *Euura* makes spindle-shaped stem galls on *Salix cinerea* in eastern Fennoscandia.

Hence, the correct host-plant for *Euura cinereae* in Finland is *Salix aurita*. The sawfly from *S. aurita* listed as *Euura* sp. (Kopelke 1999) might also be *E. cinereae*. Whether *Euura cinereae* or any other species from the *Euura atra*-group is capable of forming galls on *Salix cinerea* needs further examination.

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