

SHORT COMMUNICATION

First record of the scale insect *Parlatoria camelliae* Comstock (Hemiptera: Coccoomorpha: Diaspididae) in Greece

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Summary The scale insect *Parlatoria camelliae* Comstock (Hemiptera: Coccoomorpha: Diaspididae) is recorded for the first time in Greece on 12 August 2024. It was found on *Camellia japonica* L. (Theaceae: Ericales) in Chalkidiki. From preliminary studies it was found that *P. camelliae* is an oviparous, biparental species.

Additional keywords: *Camellia japonica*, Greece, *Parlatoria camelliae*

Parlatoria camelliae Comstock (Hemiptera: Coccoomorpha: Diaspididae) is recorded for the first time in Greece on *Camellia japonica* L. (Theaceae: Ericales) from northwestern area of Karyes, Holy Mount Athos (40°18' N, 24°12' E), on 12 August 2024, in Halkidiki. The confirmation of the species *P. camelliae* was made by Professor Giuseppina Pellizzari (Dipartimento di Agronomia, Animali, Alimenti), University of Padua, Italy. Vouchers of permanent slides of the scale insect are kept in the Laboratory of Agricultural Entomology and Zoology, Department of Agriculture, School of Agriculture and Food, University of the Peloponnese.

Genus *Parlatoria* Targioni Tozzetti, includes 80 species (García Morales *et al.*, 2016). Four species of *Parlatoria* are recorded in Greece: *P. oleae* (Colvée) (Koroneos, 1934), *P. pergandii* Comstock (Koroneos, 1964), *P. theae* Cockerell (García Morales *et al.*, 2016) and *P. ziziphi* (Lucas) (Koroneos, 1934; Normark *et al.*, 2019).

Parlatoria camelliae has been recorded in several countries of north and south Ameri-

ca, Africa, Asia and Australia (García Morales *et al.*, 2016). In Europe it has been recorded in France (Foldi, 2001), Georgia (on *Camellia japonica*, *C. sasanqua* (Theaceae) and *Prunus laurocerasus* (Rosaceae)) (Miller and Davidson, 2005; Batsankalashvili *et al.*, 2017), Italy (Longo *et al.*, 1995), Portugal (Nakahara, 1982) and Spain (Morrison, 1939).

In Chalkidiki, *P. camelliae* was found in high infestation density on a twenty year old *C. japonica* plant (Fig. 1). The scale was mainly settled on the upper surface of the leaves (Fig. 2). The examination of samples of the infested leaves in the laboratory showed that the species is biparental and oviparous. The majority of the live individuals on the samples were ovipositing female adults (Fig. 3). However, preovipositing female adults and crawlers were also recorded. The female adults of the scale were used for the identification of the species (Figs 4 and 5). In addition, scales with an exit hole of unidentified endoparasite individuals were recorded.

Little information is provided in bibliography on the biology and economic importance of *P. camelliae*. Miller and Davidson (2005) referred that males and females were found on the top and underside of camellia leaves, close to the veins. McKenzie (1956) reported *P. camelliae* as the most important scale insect pest of camellias in California whereas Miller and Davidson (1990) considered this species to be an occasional pest.

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Figure 1. *Camellia japonica* infested by *Parlatoria camelliae*.



Figure 2. Colony of *Parlatoria camelliae* on leaf of *Camellia japonica*.



Figure 3. Eggs laid by ovipositing female of *Parlatoria camelliae* (↓).

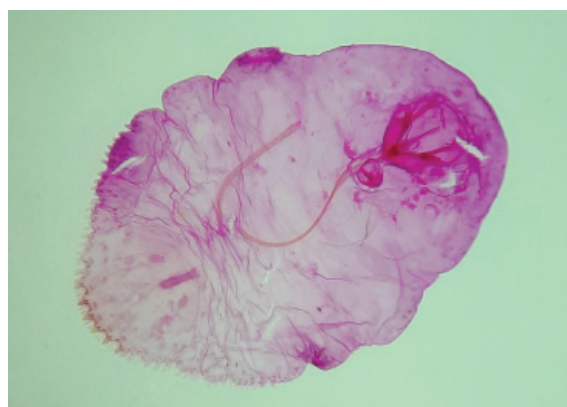


Figure 4. Body of female adult of *Parlatoria camelliae*.

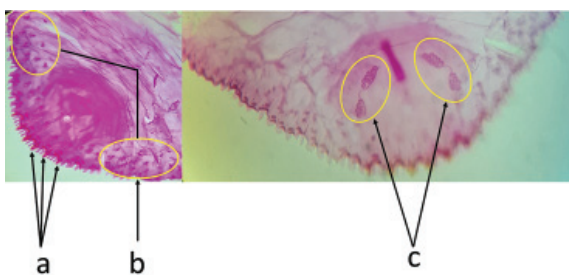


Figure 5. Pygidium of *Parlatoria camelliae* female adult: (a): median (L1), second (L2) and third lobe (L3), (b): microducts, (c): perivulval pores.

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ΣΥΝΤΟΜΗ ΑΝΑΚΟΙΝΩΣΗ

Πρώτη καταγραφή του κοκκοειδούς εντόμου *Parlatoria camelliae* Comstock (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Diaspididae) στην Ελλάδα

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Περίληψη Το κοκκοειδές έντομο *Parlatoria camelliae* Comstock (Hemiptera: Coccoidea: Diaspididae) καταγράφεται για πρώτη φορά στην Ελλάδα στις 12 Αυγούστου 2024. Το έντομο βρέθηκε επί του φυτού *Camellia japonica* L. (Theaceae: Ericales) στην Χαλκιδική. Από προκαταρκτικές μελέτες διαπιστώθηκε ότι το είδος *P. camelliae* είναι ωτόκο και αμφιγονικό.

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