NOTE

Discovery of Paratelenomus saccharalis (Dodd) (Hymenoptera: Platygastridae), an Egg Parasitoid of Megacopta cribraria F. (Hemiptera: Plataaspidae) in its Expanded North American Range

Wayne A. Gardner, Joni L. Blount, Julian R. Golec, Walker A. Jones, Xing Ping Hu, Elijah J. Talamas, Richard M. Evans, Xiangli Dong, Charles H. Ray, Jr., G. David Buntin, Nicole M. Gerardo, and Jannelle Couret

Department of Entomology, University of Georgia, College of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, Griffin Campus, 1109 Experiment Street, Griffin, Georgia 30223 USA

Key Words Megacopta cribraria, Paratelenomus saccharalis, Platygastridae, Plataspidae, egg parasitoid, kudzu bug, bean plataspid

Megacopta cribraria F. (Hemiptera: Plataaspidae), commonly known as the kudzu bug or bean plataspid, was first discovered in the Western Hemisphere in October 2009 (Eger et al. 2010. Insecta Mundi 121:1-11). The plataspid quickly spread from the 9 northeastern Georgia counties in which it was initially confirmed into 383 additional counties in Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia by the end of 2012 (Gardner et al. 2013. J. Entomol. Sci. 48:118-127). Subsequent reports show that the insect has now been confirmed in 4 additional states – Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, and Maryland – and the District of Columbia, bringing the total number of confirmed states to 12 (W.A. Gardner, unpubl. data).

Ruberson et al. (2013, Appl. Entomol. Zool. 48:3-13) reported that several existing generalist predators and a single entomogenous pathogen had been recorded as attacking M. cribraria in its expanded range in the southeastern U.S. They also reported a tachinid, Phasia robertsonii (Townsend), parasitizing a single adult M. cribraria in 2012, but no parasitism of eggs or immatures was observed in their 2010 and 2011 surveys in Georgia. Golec and Hu (2013, J. Entomol. Sci. 48: In Press) discovered Strongygaster triangulifer (Loew) (Diptera: Tachnidae) parasitizing individual adults (mean parasitism = 5.14%; n = 214) collected from soybean, Glycine max (L.) Merr.,