

New alien aphid discovered in South Africa: the woolly hackberry aphid *Shivaphis celti* Das (Hemiptera: Aphididae)

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An alien aphid was discovered in a Pretoria garden on *Celtis sinensis* Pers (Chinese hackberry) in May 2016. In February 2017 it was also observed on *C. africana* Burm.f. (white stinkwood) in Boksburg, Gauteng. It was identified as the Asian woolly hackberry aphid *Shivaspis celti* Das (Hemiptera: Aphididae), not previously found in Africa. Slide-mounted voucher specimens are deposited as accession number AcAm 1021 in the South African National Collection of Insects (Agricultural Research Council - Plant Health and Protection, Pretoria).

The new introduction is a native to China and

East and Central Asia (Quednau & Remaudière 1985; Halbert & Choate 1998; Lawson & Dreistadt 2014). In 1996 it was noticed for the first time in Georgia, U.S.A. (Lawson 2002) and subsequently from Florida to Texas, and northward to Illinois.

A characteristic of the species is the secretion of bluish white wax, which covers the body and gives the appearance of fuzzy white patches where the aphids occur on the underside of leaves (Fig. 1A, B) and shoot terminals. The insects also produce copious amounts of honeydew on which the sooty mould fungus grows.

Morphologically outstanding features are the

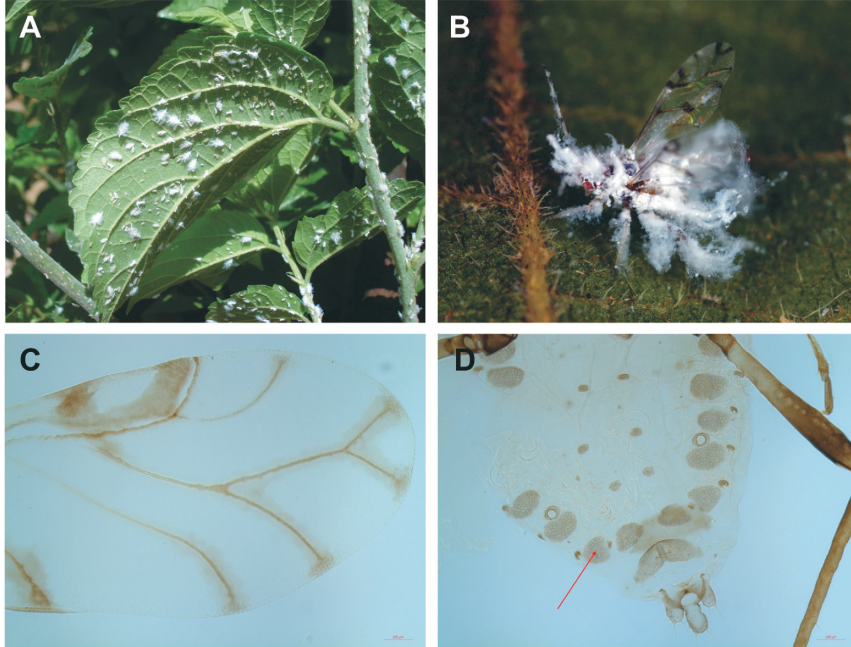


Fig. 1. *Shivaphis celti*. **A**, Colony on foliage of *Celtis* sp.; **B**, adult female alate covered in flocculent white wax; **C**, forewing showing pigmentation along veins; **D**, wax pore-plates (example arrowed) on abdominal dorsum of adult female alate.



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