Acta Entomologica Serbica, 2026, 31(2): xx-xx

UDC:
DOI: 10.5281/zenodo.24280662

Short communication

TWO NEW HETEROPTERA SPECIES IN THE AZORES (PORTUGAL): *PSEUDACYSTA PERSEAE* (HEIDEMANN, 1908) (TINGIDAE) AND *RHAPHIGASTER NEBULOSA* (PODA, 1761) (PENTATOMIDAE)

TORSTEN VAN DER HEYDEN

Immenweide 83, 22523 Hamburg, Germany
E-mail: tmvdh@web.de ORCiD: 0000-0003-4138-7160

Abstract

The first records of *Pseudacysta perseae* (Heidemann, 1908) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae) and *Rhaphigaster nebulosa* (Poda, 1761) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) in the Azores (Portugal) are reported. Additional information on the distribution of the two species is given.

KEYWORDS: *Pseudacysta perseae*, *Rhaphigaster nebulosa*, distribution, new records, Azores, Portugal

Pseudacysta perseae (Heidemann, 1908) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae), commonly known as the avocado lace bug, was described from Florida specimens and has been reported from California, the southeastern states of the United States of America, the Caribbean, Mexico, Guatemala, Venezuela, and French Guiana (Mead & Peña, 2012). In North Africa, *P. perseae* has so far been reported as an introduced species from Madeira (EPPO, 2015). The species is a pest of avocado trees, *Persea americana* Mill. (Lauraceae) (Mead & Peña, 2012; EPPO, 2015).

Herein, the first record of *P. perseae* in the Azores (Portugal) is reported: On 06.09.2026, an aggregation of nymphs and adults of the species (Fig. 1) was found in the civil parish of Fajã de Baixo in the municipality of Ponta Delgada, located in the south of the island of São Miguel. Three related photos were uploaded to the online database iNaturalist (Sousa, 2026).



Figure 1. Nymphs and adult specimens of *Pseudacysta perseae* (Heidemann, 1908), Fajã de Baixo, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal, 06.09.2026. (Photo: Carlos M. L. Sousa).

Rhaphigaster nebulosa (Poda, 1761) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) is mainly distributed in the Western and Central Palaearctic. In North Africa, the species has so far been reported from Algeria and Morocco (Aukema, 2026).

Herein, the first record of *R. nebulosa* in the Azores is reported: On 11.10.2018, an adult specimen (Fig. 2) was found in the municipality of Vila Franca do Campo, located in the south of the island of São Miguel. A photo of the specimen was uploaded to the online database iNaturalist (Garcia Marí, 2026).



Figure 2. Specimen of *Rhaphigaster nebulosa* (Poda, 1761), near Vila Franca do Campo, São Miguel, Azores, Portugal, 11.10.2018. (Photo: Ferran Garcia Marí).

Rhaphigaster nebulosa is one of the species that prefer to overwinter in human-made structures, which seems to be one of the important preadaptations for becoming a successful invader. The finding in the Azores may be one of the first documented cases of its non-native occurrence.

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank Ferran Garcia Marí and Carlos M. L. Sousa for allowing me to use their photos to illustrate this note.

References

Aukema, B. (ed.). (2026). Catalogue of Palaearctic Heteroptera [Online database]. Retrieved from: https://catpalhet.linnaeus.naturalis.nl/linnaeus_ng/app/views/introduction/topic.php?id=9&epi=1. [Accessed on: 03.11.2026].

EPPO (2015). EPPO Global Database [Online database]. First report of *Pseudacysta* perseae in Madeira (PT): addition to the EPPO Alert List. EPPO Reporting Service no. 01 - 2015. Num. article: 2015/010. Retrieved from: https://gd.eppo.int/reporting/article-4365. [Accessed on: 03.11.2026].

Garcia Marí, F. (2026). *Rhaphigaster nebulosa*. Photograph can be found on iNaturalist [Online database]. Retrieved from: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/411592111. [Accessed on: 03.11.2026].

Mead, F. W. & Peña, J. E. (2012). Avocado Lace Bug, *Pseudacysta perseae* (Heidemann) (Insecta: Hemiptera: Tingidae). *University of Florida. IFAS Extension, EENY-039/IN166*, 1-4. https://doi.org/10.32473/edis-in166-1998

Sousa, C. M. L. (2026). *Pseudacysta perseae*. Photographs can be found on iNaturalist [Online database]. Retrieved from: https://www.inaturalist.org/observations/401273747. [Accessed on: 03.11.2026].

ДВЕ НОВЕ ВРСТЕ СТЕНИЦА (HETEROPTERA) НА АЗОРСКИМ ОСТРВИМА (ПОРТУГАЛИЈА): *PSEUDACYSTA PERSEAE* (HEIDEMANN, 1908) (TINGIDAE) И *RHAPHIGASTER NEBULOSA* (PODA, 1761) (PENTATOMIDAE)

TORSTEN VAN DER HEYDEN

Извод

У овом раду приказани су први налази врста *Pseudacysta perseae* (Heidemann, 1908) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Tingidae) и *Rhaphigaster nebulosa* (Poda, 1761) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) на Азорским острвима (Португалија). Такође су дати додатни подаци о распрострањењу обе врсте.

Received: November 3rd, 2026
Accepted: November 10th, 2026