Description of the Male and a new Host Record of the Gall Wasp Isocolus centaureae (Hymenoptera: Cynipidae)

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Males of the gall wasp species Isocolus centaureae (Diakontshuk 1982) are described for the first time. Gall type, density of infestation, and sex ratio are documented briefly. This ratio supports the opinion that this species reproduces parthenogenetically.


Erstmals werden die ♂♂ der Gallwespenart Isocolus centaureae (Diakontshuk 1982) beschrieben. Daneben werden der Galltyp und das Geschlechterverhältnis kurz dargestellt. Letzteres widerspricht nicht der bisherigen Auffassung, daß diese Art sich parthenogen fortpflanzt.

1 Introduction

The Cynipid genus Isocolus ( Förster 1869) comprises 14 species, the majority of which are associated with Centaurea spp. or other closely related plant genera of the Asteraceae tribus Cardueae [Zerova et al. 1988]. In 1982, L. A. Diakontshuk described Isocolus centaureae as a new species. He reared it from Centaurea diffusa (Lam.). According to Diakontshuk [1988], this species was also found in C. squarrosa (Boiss.) and seems to be oligophagous on Centaurea spp.

Even though Diakontshuk mentions ♂♂ of I. centaureae in his key of the genus Isocolus in the book by Zerova et al. [1988], those ♂♂ are not described. As this Isocolus species is a potential biocontrol agent against Centaurea diffusa, this description of the ♂♂ may be of interest. Until now, no information is given on the density of infestation and the sex ratio of I. centaureae.

2 Material and Methods

In 1990 1,000 capitula of C. paniculata each were collected in IV and VI at Tovo Faraldi, Capo Berta, and San Bartolomeo in N’ Italy. From these flowerheads, 53 I. centaureae were reared, 4 of those being ♂♂.