

Research Note

HOMOPTERA-AUCHENORRHYNCHA FROM RICE FIELDS IN PUERTO RICO¹

Leafhoppers are considered rice pests throughout Asia, Central and South America,² and the United States.³ Mechanical damage and yield reductions are attributed to insect feeding. Hoppers are also vectors of various viral diseases such as "hoja blanca" virus, black-streaked dwarf and striped virus.²

TABLE 1.—*Partial list of Homoptera-Auchenorrhyncha collected from rice fields in Puerto Rico, 1986-1987*

Family / Genus	PR ACC. Number
Membracidae	
<i>Spissistilus festinus</i> (Say) ¹	394-86
Cicadellidae	
Cicadellinae	
<i>Carneocephala sagittifera</i> (Uhler)	42-86
<i>Hortensia similis</i> (Walker)	39-86
Gyponinae	
<i>Gypona</i> sp.	396-86
<i>Ponana</i> sp.	403-86
Deltocephalinae	
<i>Balclutla incisa</i> (Matsumara)	326-86-A
<i>Chlorotettix fraterculus</i> (Berg)	326-86-B
<i>Chlorotettix nigromaculatus</i> Delong & Wolcott	326-86
<i>Graminella nigrifrons</i> (Forbes)	43-86
<i>Unerus colonus</i> (Uhler)	326-86-C, 42-86
Delphacidae	
<i>Delphacodes mesada</i> Caldwell	263-86
<i>Delphacodes</i> sp.	115-86, 249-86, 263-86, 264-86, 299-86
<i>Sogata albifacies</i> (Caldwell)	116-86
Acanaloniidae	
<i>Acanalonia vivida</i> (Fabricius)	349-86

¹New record for Puerto Rico.

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²Heinrichs, E. A., F. G. Medrano and H. R. Rapusas, 1985. Genetic evaluation for insect resistance in rice. Int. Rice Research Institute, Los Baños, Laguna, Philippines.

³Integrated pest management for rice. 1983. Univ. California Division of Agric. Sciences Publication 3280, page 66.

Little is known about leafhopper species affecting rice in Puerto Rico. Vicente et al.⁴ listed *Sogatodes orizicola* (Muir) as a potential enemy of rice in Puerto Rico, but did not confirm its presence on the island. Herein we present a list of the Homoptera-Auchenorrhyncha collected from commercial rice fields in Puerto Rico in 1986-87.

Insects were collected with a standard insect net (38 cm circumference). Collected specimens were determined by José A. Ramos, University of Puerto Rico, Mayagüez Campus. Voucher specimens were deposited in the entomology museum, Agricultural Experiment Station, Río Piedras, Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico accession numbers for voucher specimens are presented in table 1.

Although leafhoppers from 11 species and 12 genera were recovered from rice fields during most of the growing season, no serious mechanical or feeding damage was observed. Examination of rice fields infested with the species listed indicated no visible viral disease symptoms associated

with their presence on rice plants. *S. orizicola*, listed by Vicente et al.⁴ as a potential pest of rice, was not recovered in this study. The recovery of *S. festinus* represents a new record for Puerto Rico.

Research is needed to determine the nature of the damage, the relative abundance and economic importance of the species, as well as the relationship between weeds and the development of leafhopper infestations in rice fields.

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⁴Vicente, J., F. Abruña, J. Lozano, S. Silva, A. Rodríguez y C. T. Ramírez, 1977. Cultivo intensivo y perspectivas del arroz en Puerto Rico. Univ. P. R. Esta. Exp. Agric. Univ. P.R. Bol. 250.