

Thierry BOURGOIN, Pierre GROS & Adam STROIŃSKI. – *Pochazia shantungensis* (Chou & Lu, 1977), an important Asiatic invasive pest on fruit trees, first time reported from France (Hemiptera, Fulgoromorpha, Ricaniidae)

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**Abstract.** – The ricaniid *Pochazia shantungensis* (Chou & Lu, 1977), a well-known Asiatic fruit trees pest in China and invasive in Korea, is reported for the first time in South of France, in the department of Alpes-Maritimes.

*Pochazia shantungensis* (Chou & Lu, 1977) is an invasive species of the planthopper family Ricaniidae Amyot & Audinet-Serville, 1843 (Hemiptera, Fulgoromorpha, Ricaniidae). It was originally described from China (CHOU & LU, 1977; RAHMAN *et al.*, 2012) and reached Korea in 2010 (Jo, 2014), where it started spreading in all the western part of the country (BAEK *et al.*, 2019). Very recently, it was collected in 2018 from European-Turkey (HIZAL *et al.*, 2019), where it seems stably established.

*Pochazia shantungensis* is recorded as a major economic polyphagous pest particularly on fruit plants and roadside trees in Zhejiang Province in China (CHOU *et al.*, 1985). More than 200 host-plants (81 families, 157 genera, 208 host-plant species) have currently been reported for the species (Stroiński, unpublished). As with most planthoppers reported as pests, *P. shantungensis* damages plants by its feeding sap-sucking action, by the resulting accumulation of honeydew secretion promoting sooty moulds development (Ascomycete fungi), and particularly by female oviposition by inserting eggs in great number in young branches of arboreal trees, stopping plants saps. Nymphs seem to prefer herbaceous plants rather than trees (CHOI *et al.*, 2016). Two generations per year are reported in China while only one in Korea (BAEK, 2019).

We report here for the first time the species from Western Europe in south-eastern France, (Alpes-Maritimes department in the Provence-Alpes-Côte d'Azur region), collected in a garden in Cagnes-sur-Mer [43°39'50.20"N (43.6639470) 7°08'13.73"E (7.1371475)]. The first specimen (fig. 1-2) was a male observed at rest on a wall,



**Fig. 1-3.** – *Pochazia shantungensis* (Chou & Lu) from Cagnes-sur-Mer (France). – 1, ♂, habitus, dorsal side, November 2018. – 2-3, Habitus, ventral side: 2, ♂ (forewing length: 11.5 mm), November 2018; 3, ♀ (forewing length: 13.2 mm), October 2019.

in the end of November 2018, 26<sup>th</sup>. Unique and collected during autumn, the report of the species in France would have remained anecdotal if a second specimen had not been observed again a year later in October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019, and a third one, a female (fig. 3), collected a few days after on the 25<sup>th</sup>. These two new specimens were observed in a garden planted with several fruit trees, almost one year later in the same place, indicating that the species is probably established. The first and third specimens are now stored in the MNHN collections with the following respective registration numbers: MNHN(EH) 24746 and MNHN(EH) 24747.

*Pochazia shantungensis* is easily and quickly recognizable by its flattened and triangular dark brown habitus at rest (fig. 1). Tegminae are marked with a semi elliptical-shaped white spot on their costal margin at about two-thirds from base. Hind wings are dark brown. Females are slightly larger than males (about 15 mm from vertex to tip of tegmina) (fig. 2-3).

New alien species for France, *Pochazia shantungensis* is a pest species in China and Korea, and a potentially new invasive species for Western Europe. While still recorded as *Ricania shantungensis* Chou & Lu, 1977, in recent studies, and despite recent molecular analyses by KWON *et al.* (2017), the species should be classified in the genus *Pochazia* Amyot & Audinet-Serville, 1843 (RAHMAN *et al.*, 2012; BOURGOIN, 2020).

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