

Cacopsylla pulchra (Zetterstedt, 1838) - (Homoptera, Phylloidea).

– New to the Faroe Islands

Lars Trolle and Per Ketil



Fig. 1: *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) male. Scale: 1 mm. Trolle del.
Mynd 1: *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) hannur. Mátangareind: 1 mm. Trolle del.

Úrtak

Vit vita ikki stórt um blaðloppuna ella psyllidir (*Homoptera, Psylloidea*) í Føroyum. Í eftirfaldartorvi úr Tórshavn var komið fram á leivdir av *Aphalara*-slagnum.

Kortini vórðu nøkur eintøk tikin í Havn í 1989 og í 1992. Slagið *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) heldur til á pfli, sum lutvís er fýrdur inn í urtagarar og viðarlundirnar í Tórshavn. Eintøkini av *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) verða goymd á Náttúrgripasavninum í Tórshavn.

In *Zoology of the Faroes* (1929) Kaj L. Henriksen wrote that remains of a psyllid species had been found in a postglacial bog in Tórshavn by Knud Jessen and R. Rasmussen. It was a species of *Aphalara*, but it was not possible to identify the remains to species level and the *Aphalara* species are also notoriously difficult to identify even when you have the whole insect. The genus is associated with plants of the family *Polygonaceae* - i.e. *Rumex* and *Polygonum* species.

0,3 mm

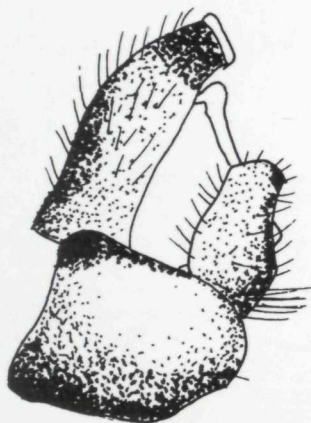


Fig. 2: *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) male-genitalia.
Mynd 2: *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) kynsgögn hjá kalldýrinum. Mátingareind: 0.3 mm. Trolle del.

0,6 mm.

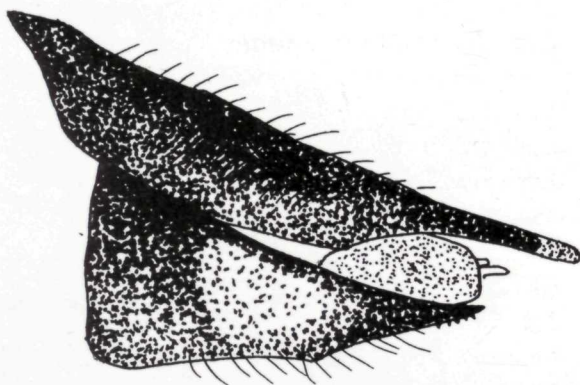


Fig. 3: *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) female-genitalia.
Mynd 3: *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) kynsgögn hjá kvenndýrinum. Mátingareind: 0.6 mm. Trolle del.

That was all that was known about jumping plantlice or psyllids in the Faroes until Per Ketil and Birgitta Eriksson caught a single specimen on the wing in the plantation in Tórshavn on July 28th 1989.

Lars Trolle was given the specimen for identification and was straight away able to see that 1) it was a female and 2) it belonged to the genus *Cacopsylla*.

Psyllids are identified by setae on the legs, microscopic hairs or spinules on the uppersides of the wings, the venation of the wings and in particular the genitalia (Dobreaanu and Monolache, 1962; Hodkinson

and White, 1979; Ossiannilsson, 1992). However female psyllids are often regrettably hard to identify, so it was with some trepidation, that we referred the species to *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.), Fig. 1.

We collected leafhoppers on the Faroes from August 21st until September 6th 1992, and we also looked for psyllids everywhere possible. But it was not until the 5th of September that we managed to find one male and one female, and again it was in the plantation in Tórshavn between the Art Museum and the football-field. And now that we had a male, it was actually nice

to have confirmed that it was indeed *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.). The male is readily identified by the shape of the parameres (Fig. 2), the female proctiger is comparatively long and the dorsal outline slightly concave (Fig. 3).

All psyllids live on plant sap and are “phloem feeders”, like leafhoppers and aphids, which are also their nearest relatives. During their feeding, some psyllid nymphs may cause considerable damage to their hostplants since their salivary injections may produce serious galling and malformations. Certain species are vectors of bacterial or viral diseases. *Cacopsylla pulchra*, however, lives on various willows (*Salix*) - in particular *S. caprea* and *S. purpurea*, but has also been found on *S. pentandra*, all of which have been introduced to gardens in Tórshavn and elsewhere. The psyllid has also been found on *Salix viminalis*, *myrsinifolia* and *repens*, but these willows are not, as far as we know, planted on the Faroe Islands (Højgaard *et al.*, 1989). We looked for psyllids on every willow tree or bush, that we met on the islands, but apart from this single case in vain. *Cacopsylla pulchra* has a single generation per year - it hibernates in the adult stage on evergreens (fir) - a fact that might possibly reduce its distribution on the Faroe Islands.

Psyllids jump well (hence the name “Jumping plantlice”) but are weak fliers. They are spread either passively with the wind or as eggs in plant material. *Cacopsylla pulchra* is distributed from North-western Europe across Russia to Japan (Klimaszewski, 1973). It has also been found in Britain and Norway which are the

most likely countries of origin in case of an airborne introduction (Bengtson, 1982).

The specimens of *Cacopsylla pulchra* (Zett.) are kept at the Museum of Natural History in Tórshavn.

Acknowledgement

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