

Tingis cardui bites a human (Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Tingidae)

Tingis cardui pica a un humano (Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Tingidae)

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Several families of Heteroptera include among their representatives some species that occasionally bite man. Schaefer (2000) mentions fifteen groups which have recorded cases of bites to people, a dozen of them for taxa of exclusively phytophagous diet (Schaefer, 2000, 2003).

In the family Tingidae five species [genera *Corythucha* Stål, 1873 (4 spp.) and *Stephanitis* Stål, 1873 (1 sp.)] have been mentioned as biters on man (Schaefer 2000), all of them living on trees and ornamental bushes, where they can reach high densities, both conditions favouring the interaction with humans and subsequent attacks on people. In Europe we do not know of cases of bites to man by lace bugs, a fact that may be because of the absence of native species of Tingidae associated with ornamental plants.

We present the first case of biting by a *Tingis* Fabricius, 1803 species on humans. The species involved is *Tingis cardui* Linnaeus, 1758, widely distributed in the Palaearctic region and associated with various species of Asteraceae (Péricart, 1983). The event took place on June, 1st 2012 in Villarreal de San Carlos (Serradilla), Cáceres, on the cheek of our friend Francisco Javier Díaz Colmenero, who had the patience not to crush the bug and collect it for study. After feeling a little pain at the bite point, the bite developed into a small reactive papule with discrete local erythematous reaction and without necrosis. The pain of the bite, evident only when touching the affected area, was mitigated in few days and the small local reaction had disappeared in six days.

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