

**Morphometric Analysis of Two Populations of *Eurygaster maura* (Het.: Scutelleridae)
in Iran**

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Abstract

Morphometric differentiations may explain biogeographic distinctions among populations of a given species. The possibility of morphometric distinctions between two populations of *Eurygaster maura* L. collected from the northeast (Golestan province) and the northwest (Azarbayejan province) of Iran was examined using principal component analysis over 25 body measurements (eight absolute and 17 proportional, separately). The northeast individuals were relatively larger and darker in colour than those of the northwest; total body lengths of the former were 13.56 ± 0.49 and 13.25 ± 0.38 mm (female and male, respectively), and the respective values for the latter were 12.74 ± 0.39 and 12.63 ± 0.49 mm. Generally, proportional indices including genital width had positively the highest contributions to population discrimination. Different habitats and climatic conditions may explain, in part, these morphological variations between the studied populations.

Key words: *Eurygaster maura*, Heteroptera, population differentiation, biogeography, morphometrics, Iran.

Introduction

In the genus *Eurygaster* Laporte, similar to the rest of the Heteroptera, the main diagnostic character is the male genitalia (1, 2, 9, 14, 15, 16). Within the species, morphological differences among populations may explain a bio-ecological distinction. In the well-known sunn pest, *Eurygaster integriceps* Puton, morphometric differences among populations have been investigated by Bryantseva (3), who demonstrated three different population-groups from five studied populations. Sarafrazi (13) also showed seven distinct clusters of sunn pest populations collected from 16 different localities in Iran, based on morphometric indices.

Distribution of *E. maura* in Iran has been reported by Safavi (12), Brown & Eralp (2), and Mohaghegh (8). There are two main distribution areas in the country: Azarbayejan

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