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## What do we know about the Auchenorrhyncha fauna of Lebanon?

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Extensive studies by many authors of the Homoptera Auchenorrhyncha fauna in the Middle East area (including Turkey, Cyprus, Irak and Egypt) during the past 80 years have ended up to the description of about 600-700 species. In this geographical range, Lebanon is considered as a "blank spot" with a record of only a dozen species of Auchenorrhyncha, that number being in contradiction with the extreme variety of biotopes and microclimates of this 10400 km<sup>2</sup> country. From the north-south orientation of the mountain chains and their high elevation (max. 3080m), combined with a coastal zone on the 35<sup>o</sup> parallel, one could expect that the following characteristics should be found in this geographical area:

- Relict species on the high mountains?
- Speciation due to the "insularisation" phenomenon (Mount Lebanon being like an island in the eremic surrounding area);

- Simultaneous presence of ponto-mediterranean and african species;

Intensive collecting made by the author during the past few years have partly confirmed these hypothesis. About a hundred species were collected among which the following: *Youngiada pandellei* (Lethierry, 1878) (sensu Ribaut (1936), which was considered as a western palaeartic species; *Chunrocerus balcanicus* (Horvath, 1903), a ponto-mediterranean species previously known only from the Balkans and Turkey; *Remanodelphax cedroni* Drosopoulos, 1982 (det. M. Asche) which was considered as an endemic species of Greece; *Jacobiasca lybica* (Bergevin et Zanon), an african species which northern limit is found in Lebanon and in Spain.

It is expected that a minimum of 250 species should be found in this very peculiar geographical area.