

**SCIENTIFIC NOTE : *COCCOPHAGUS SCUTELLARIS*  
(DALMAN) (HYMENOPTERA: APHELINIDAE),  
A NEW RECORD PARASITOID ATTACKING SUGAR-CANE  
SOFT SCALE INSECT, *PULVINARIA TENUVALVATA*  
(NEWSTEAD) IN EGYPT**

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**Key Words:** *Coccophagus scutellaris* , *Pulvinaria tenuvalvata* Sugar- Cane, Egypt .

Soft scale insects ( Homoptera : Coccidae ) are among the most important plant pests. These insects are sap feeders resulting in debilitation of the host plant, and excrete honeydew, which promotes the growth of saprophytic "sooty mould" that inhibits photosynthesis

Recently, the sugar – cane soft scale, *Pulvinaria tenuvalvata* (Newstead) has become serious sugar cane pest in Upper Egypt.

The Egyptian sugar – cane growers got worried about this insects and entomologists at Ministry of Agricultural have paid to much care to manage this insects. Since sugar – cane is food crop, it was very difficult to use insecticides against *P. tenuvalvata*.

Review of literature revealed that soft scale insects are usually attacked by many natural enemies , mainly parasitoids , (Priesner & Hosny, 1940; Moursi, 1974; Ali , 1980; Hafez ,1984 ; Prinsloo, 1984 ,Hamed &Hassanein ,1991; Hendawy , 1999) . Therefore, it was necessary to search for *P. tenuvalvata* parasitoids in the Upper Egypt.

Nymphs and adults of *P. tenuvalvata* were collected from infested sugar –cane plants at Luxor district in 2000 .The insects were transferred to the laboratory, kept in jars having pieces of sugar –cane plants for feeding and provided with suitable moisture. The insect was daily monitored till the complete of life cycle or the emergence of parasitoids. The latter's were primarily identified as *Coccophagus sp.* by the biological control specialist, A. S. Hendawy (One of the teamwork of the current scientific note).

For confirmation, the specimens were sent to Dr. Gregory Zolnerowich, Department of Entomology, Kansas State University who further identified this parasitoid as *Coccophagus scutellaris* (Dalman). However, this aphelinid *C. scutellaris* was recorded for the first time in Egypt by Priesener & Hosny, 1940 which parasitized, *Coccus hesperidum* L. and *Pulvinaria floccifera* Westw. In the current work, *Coccophagus scutellaris* (Dalman) is a first record on *Pulvinaria tenuivalvata* (Newstead).

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**تسجيل جديد من عائلة أفيلينيدي *COCCOPHAGUS SCUTELLARIS*  
(DAL.) على حشرة القصب القشرية الرخوة *PULVINARIA*  
*TENUVALVATA* (NEWSTÉAD) في مصر**

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تعتبر حشرة القصب القشرية الرخوة *P. tenuvalvata* من أهم آفات القصب في صعيد مصر وأخطرها حيث يصعب مقاومتها بالمبيدات... ويعمل حصر لطفيلياتها سجل الطفيل *S. scutellaris* لأول مرة في مصر علي هذه الحشرة وقد تم جمع هذه العينات من منطقة الأقصر بمصر العليا وتم تعريفها بواسطة الدكتور / جريجوري زولينوروتش بجامعة كانسس - الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية .