

An alien species in Çanakkale, Turkey: Jasmine moth (*Palpita unionalis* Hübner, Lepidoptera: Pyralidae)

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Jasmine moth was first reported in 1961, in Israel as *Glyphodes unionalis* Hübner (Lepidoptera: Pyralidae). Later, the pest was renamed as *Palpita unionalis* Hübner. The pest is distributed in Italy, Greece, Swedish, Poland, Portuguese, Egypt, Iran, USA and Japan. In Turkey, *Palpita unionalis* was first recorded in 1969 in the Aegean region. In 1999 it was detected in the city of Bursa of Marmara province. In Çanakkale, the pest was first detected in 2008 after investigation of complaints by olive producers in the Ayvacık district. During a survey conducted in the period 2009-2011 the pest was detected in the central, Intepe and Bozcaada districts, as well as the towns of Kumkale and Dardanos. The first larvae of the pest were detected on the 30th of July in Bozcaada in 2009. Different instars of the pest were reared on natural host plants and artificial diets in the laboratory where all biological parameters of the pest were determined. The hosts of the pest are olive (*Olea europaea*), jasmine (*Jasminum* sp.), *Phillyrea* sp., privet (*Ligustrum* sp.) and *Fraxinus* sp. The pest causes important economical losses in the olive orchards by feeding on shoots of saplings and younger trees. The pest also may cause a decrease in the quality of the product by feeding on all phenological stages of the olives.

Keywords: Jasmine moth, *Palpita unionalis*, olive, alien species.

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