

**A NEW RECORD OF *CERODONTHA* (*CERODONTHA*)  
*PHRAGMITOPHILA* HERING (DIPTERA: AGROMYZIDAE)  
ON OBOE CANE, *ARUNDO DONAX* L., IN EGYPT**

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**Abstract**

The leafminer species, *Cerodontha* (*Cerodontha*) *phragmitophila* Hering, is recorded for the first time on oboe cane, *Arundo donax* L., plants grown in or on the banks of the irrigation canals at Al-Aiat region in Giza governorate. The *Cerodontha* Rondani (Agromyzidae) fauna of Egypt includes now 3 species. Females laid its eggs singly near the margin on lower surface of the leaf blade. The initial mine of the newly hatched larvae is linear, became widening corridor by vertically feeding larvae on the blade leaf tissue and pupation of the full-grown larvae within the mine. Infestation started in late August and continued until late October, 2003 and during the last three weeks of September, 2008 with general mean levels about 3 and 8%, respectively. Mines ranged between 1- 3 mines / infested leaf and a single mine is common in each infested leaf. Two larval and pupal parasitoids, Hymenoptera: Chalcidoidea: Eulophidae) i. e. *Diglyphus isaea* Walker (new record) and *Chrysocharis* sp. (new record) were identified. Pupal parasitism was generally higher than larval one with general rates about 64 and 34%, respectively. Both parasitoids started its parasitic activity in late August and continued until the third week of October, 2003 as well as during the last three weeks of September, 2008. It were fluctuated greatly which rates of pupal parasitism increased from about 48% in 2003 to 80% in 2008, whilst rates of parasitized larvae decreased from about 39% to 30% during the same period.

**INTRODUCTION**

The leafminer, *Cerodontha* (*Cerodontha*) *phragmitophila* Hering, 1935 (Diptera: Agromyzidae), is a new record attacking oboe cane or giant reed, *Arundo donax* L., plants in the governorates of Giza (at Al-aiat) and Qalubia (at Shobra El-Kheima). Flies reared from oboe cane were submitted to identification by Dr. John C. Deeming (Natural Museums & Galleries of Wales, Cardiff, UK) in April, 2003. Spencer, (1973) reported that genus *Cerodontha* Rondani, feeds exclusively on monocotyledons, in addition to the Gramineae, also on the families Cyperaceae, Iridaceae and Liliaceae. It is now a cosmopolitan genus with over 260 species, divided into 7 subgenera and larvae of the subgenus, *Cerodontha* are leafminers feeding in leaf sheaths of Poaceae (Nowakowski, 1962 and Spencer, 1990). The subgenus *Corodontha* is found in all major zoogeographic realms in the Palaearctic and Nearctic regions (Boucher, 2002).