

**THE EFFECT OF INCREASING THE NUMBER OF LEAVES  
ON PLANTS *HIERACIUM* × *ROBUSTUM* (ASTERACEAE) AT THEIR  
SETTLING BY GALL-FORMER *AULACIDEA HIERACII*  
(HYMENOPTERA: CYNIPIDAE)**

**V. V. Anikin<sup>1</sup>, M. I. Nikelshparg<sup>2</sup>**

<sup>1</sup> *N. G. Chernyshevsky Saratov State University  
83 Astrakhanskaya Str., Saratov 410012, Russia  
E-mail: anikinvasiliiv@mail.ru*

<sup>2</sup> *Gymnasium № 3  
121 B. Kazachya Str., Saratov 410012, Russia  
E-mail: matveynikel@yandex.ru*

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Gall-former *Aulacidea hieracii* and their host – Mighty hieracium (*Hieracium* × *robustum* Fr.) were studied during the years 2017 – 2018 from the vicinity of the Saratov city. The conducted research allowed to establish the clear differences in the numerical parameters of leaves in plants with and without galls. The area of leaves of plants with gall exceeds the area of leaves of plants without gall in 2.7 – 3 times. The gall existence on the plant directly affects not only on the increasing the number of leaves on the plant, but also affects on the enlargement of the leaves on the stem.

**Key words:** gall formation, hawk, *Hieracium* × *robustum*, gall-former insect, *Aulacidea hieracii*, Russia, Saratov Province.

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