

NOTE

Polistes dominulus (Christ) (Hymenoptera: Vespidae)
New to Maryland

Polistes dominulus (Christ) is a common and widespread paperwasp in the palearctic region. The species is common in Europe and often goes under the name *P. gallicus* (L.) (Menke, Spheces 12: 21, 1986). In the Palearctic *P. dominulus* is known from North Africa, the warmer parts of France, Belgium, and Germany, and eastward to the Pacific Coast of China. Generally, the species is found in warmer and drier localities within its range.

Polistes dominulus was first collected in the United States in 1980 at Cambridge, Massachusetts (Hathaway, Psyche 88: 169–173, 1981). Since 1980, *P. dominulus* has been collected in Connecticut, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, and Pennsylvania (R. S. Jacobson, per. comm.).

On 3 October 1994, I. B. Smith, Maryland Department of Agriculture, and R. Ruschell, University of Maryland, examined two colonies of *P. dominulus* on the

College Park campus. One colony was at the top of a door jamb of a seldom used doorway and the second was on the housing of an exhaust fan at approximately ground level in an exterior stairwell. Over 100 adult *P. dominulus* were collected. This is a new state record.

Polistes dominulus is a distinctive species, looking more like a yellowjacket (*Vespula* spp.) than any of the *Polistes* native to North America. It forms a typical paper wasp single comb in the open or in enclosed areas such as the open ends of pipes.

Voucher specimens have been deposited in the Maryland Department of Agriculture and the U.S. National Museum of Natural History. Maryland Department of Agriculture Contribution Number CN86-94.

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