

## THE FIRST RECORD OF THE PLANT BUG *PLATYCRANUS METRIORRHYNCHUS* (HEMIPTERA: HETEROPTERA: MIRIDAE) IN CROATIA

PETR KMENT

Department of Entomology, National Museum, Kunratice 1,  
CZ-148 00 Praha 4, Czech Republic (e-mail: sigara@post.cz)

**Kment, P.: The first record of the plant bug *Platycranus metriorrhynchus* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae) in Croatia. *Nat. Croat.*, Vol. 22, No. 2, 333–337, 2013, Zagreb.**

The plant bug *Platycranus* (*Genistocapsus*) *metriorrhynchus* Reuter, 1883 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Orthotylineae: Orthotylini) is recorded from Croatia for the first time, based on specimens collected in the Biokovo Mountains (Central Dalmatia). The species was collected from *Genista radiata* (L.) Scopoli (Fabaceae).

**Key words:** Heteroptera, Miridae, faunistics, new record, host plant, Dalmatia, Croatia

**Kment, P.: Prvi nalaz biljne stjenice *Platycranus metriorrhynchus* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae) u Hrvatskoj. *Nat. Croat.*, Vol. 22, No. 2, 333–337, 2013, Zagreb.**

Vrsta biljne stjenice *Platycranus* (*Genistocapsus*) *metriorrhynchus* Reuter, 1883 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Orthotylineae: Orthotylini) po prvi puta je zabilježena u Hrvatskoj, na temelju primjeraka prikupljenih na Biokovu (središnja Dalmacija). Vrsta je prikupljena s biljke *Genista radiata* (L.) Scopoli (Fabaceae).

**Ključne riječi:** Heteroptera, Miridae, faunistika, novi nalaz, biljka domaćin, Dalmacija, Hrvatska

Until recently, the orthotyline plant bug genus *Platycranus* Fieber, 1870 included 2 subgenera (*Platycranus* s. str. and *Genistocapsus* Wagner, 1956) and 21 species, all but two of them distributed in rather limited areas in the Mediterranean region and Atlantic Western Europe, from Ireland and the Canary Islands, towards Ukraine, Turkey, Syria, and Jordan (SCHUH, 1995; KERZHNER & JOSIFOV, 1999; LINNAVUORI, 1999; GOGALA, 2002; JOSIFOV & SIMOV, 2006; GÜNTHER, 2011; AUKEMA *et al.*, 2013). However, KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV (2013) revised the genus and evaluated variability and usefulness of the distinguishing characters, which resulted in several new synonymies, reducing the number of valid species to 13 (4 within *Platycranus* s.str.; 9 within *Genistocapsus*, with one further species still suspected of being a synonym), and showing larger distributional areas for some of them. All the known species of *Platycranus* are restricted to the legume plants of the tribe Genisteae (KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013). So far, only a single species of the genus has been recorded from Croatia, *Platycranus* (*Platycranus*) *erberi* Fieber, 1870, reported from several localities in Dalmatia (see PROTIĆ, 1998; KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013). In this contribution, one additional species of *Platycranus* is recorded from Croatia.

***Platycranus (Genistocapsus) metriorrhynchus* Reuter, 1883**

(Fig. 1)

= *P. longicornis* Wagner, 1955 (syn. KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013: 236)= *P. rumelicus* Simov, 2006 in JOSIFOV & SIMOV (2006) (syn. KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013: 236)

**Material examined. CROATIA: Dalmatia:** Makarska env., Mt Biokovo, Sv. Jure peak (43°20'30"N, 17°03'11"E), ca 1755 m a.s.l., 14.ix.2005, 2 females, 31.viii.2010, 13 males 7 females, all P. Kment lgt., coll. National Museum, Prague. All the specimens were beaten from low shrubs of *Genista radiata* which is a dominant of the alpine grassland on limestone ground at the collecting site above the upper forest line (see Figs 2 and 3).

**Host plants.** Fabaceae: Genisteeae: *Genista radiata* (L.) Scopoli (REUTER, 1902; WAGNER, 1974; this paper), *Genista florida* L. (RIBES, 1978; KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013), *Genista lydia* Boissier (= *G. rumelica* Vel.) (JOSIFOV & SIMOV, 2006, as *P. rumelicus*), *Genista scorpius* (L.) de Candolle (RIBES, 1984), *Cytisus balansae* (Boissier) Ball. (= *Genista purgans* (L.) de Candolle) (WAGNER, 1955; RIBES, 1984; both as *P. longicornis*), and *Sarothamnus* sp. (WAGNER, 1974).

**Life cycle.** According to JOSIFOV & SIMOV (2006) it has only one generation per year. In Bulgaria larvae appear in early June, when *Genista lydia* is in blossom, while the adults occur from end of June to end of July and feed on the green pods of *G. lydia* (JOSIFOV & SIMOV, 2006). Based on the dates available in literature, the adults were collected from July 3 (KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013) to October 7 (WAGNER, 1955), the dates from mid August to early October mostly coming from high altitudes above 1500 m a.s.l. (WAGNER, 1955; RIBES, 1984; GOGALA, 2006; KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013; this paper).



**Fig 1.** Habitus of *Platycranus (Genistocapsus) metriorrhynchus* Reuter, 1883, Mt. Biokovo, Sv. Jure peak. Body length: male 4.9 mm, female 4.4 mm (Photo: P. Kment).



**Fig. 2.** Top part of Sv. Jure peak (Mt. Biokovo) with growths of *Genista radiata* (Photo: L. Juříčková).



**Fig. 3.** Shrubs of *Genista radiata* under the top of Sv. Jure peak, microhabitat of *Platycranus (Genistocapsus) metriorrhynchus* Reuter, 1883 (Photo: P. Kment).

**Habitat.** Only few of the published records are accompanied by data on the sampled habitats. According to WAGNER (1955) it was collected in the *Pinus uncinata* zone in the East Pyrenees (1800–2200 m a.s.l.). GÖLLNER-SCHIEDING (1978) described the locality Vodno as mountain range at most 1066 m high, covered with mixed oak forest, in higher altitudes changing into mountain meadows with solitary beeches, oaks and juniper shrubs, and the locality Galičica Mountains as mountain meadow at 1600 m a.s.l., conditions similar to those in Mt Biokovo. The altitudinal range of the species is from 152 m a.s.l. in Friuli (Italy) to 2335 m a.s.l. in the Pyrenees. (Catalunya, Spain) (KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013).

**Distribution.** Portugal, Spain, Andorra, France, Italy, Slovenia, Serbia, Macedonia, and Bulgaria (GÖLLNER-SCHIEDING, 1978; PROTIĆ, 1998, 2011; KERZHNER & JOSIFOV, 1999; JOSIFOV & SIMOV, 2006, as *P. rumelicus* Simov; AUKEMA *et al.*, 2013; KNYSHOV & KONSTANTINOV, 2013). KERZHNER & JOSIFOV (1999) listed the species also for Austria, but RABITSCH (2004) noted that there is no reliable record from that country. The distribution of the species within the Balkan Peninsula is only poorly known (altogether eight localities), but considering the distribution of the host plants (e.g. *Genista radiata*, see FRANZ & LEUTE, 2010), we may expect further records of *P. metriorrhynchus* in the north Mediterranean subregion. **New species for Croatia.**

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am thankful to Lucie Juříčková (Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic) for the photo of the locality and Tomáš Juříčka (Břežín, Czech Republic) for logistic support. This study was partly supported by the grant of the Ministry of Culture of the Czech Republic to the National Museum, Prague (DKRVO 2013/12, 00023272).

*Received May 25, 2013*

## REFERENCES

- AUKEMA, B., RIEGER, CH. & RABITSCH, W., 2013: Catalogue of the Heteroptera of the Palaearctic Region. VI. Supplement. The Netherlands Entomological Society, Amsterdam, xxiii + 629 pp.
- FRANZ, W.R. & LEUTE, G.H., 2010: Ein Neuvorkommen des Kugel-Ginsters (*Genista radiata*) im Gitschtal (Gailltaler Alpen) mit Hinweisen auf dessen Gesellschaftsanschluss in Kärnten und in den Julischen Alpen. *Carinthia* **200/120**, 383–392.
- GOGALA, A., 2002: *Platycranus (Genistocapsus) boreae* sp. nov. from Slovenia (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Orthotylinae). *Acta Entomologica Slovenica* **10**, 13–20.
- GOGALA, A., 2006: Heteroptera of Slovenia, III: Miridae. *Annales for Istrian and Mediterranean Studies, Serie Historia Naturalis* **16**, 77–112.
- GÖLLNER-SCHIEDING, U., 1978: Beitrag zur Kenntnis der Heteropterenfauna Mazedoniens. *Acta Musei Macedonici Scientiarum Naturalium* **15**, 145–150 + table.
- GÜNTHER, H., 2011: *Platycranus jordii* nov. sp. (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae) from southern Spain. *Heteropterus Revista de Entomología* **11(2)**, 267–271.
- JOSIFOV, M. & SIMOV, N., 2006: Endemism among the Heteroptera on the Balkan Peninsula. Pp. 879–898. In: RABITSCH, W. (Ed.): Hug the bug. For love of true bugs. Festschrift zum 70. Geburtstag von Ernst Heiss. *Denisia* **19**, 1–1184.
- KERZHNER, I.M. & JOSIFOV, M., 1999: Miridae. Pp. 1–577. In: AUKEMA, B. & RIEGER, CH. (Eds.): Catalogue of the Heteroptera of the Palaearctic Region, Vol. 3. The Netherlands Entomological Society, xiv + 577 pp.
- KNYSHOV, A. & KONSTANTINOV, F.V., 2013: A taxonomic revision of the genus *Platycranus* Fieber, 1870 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Orthotylinae). *Zootaxa* **3637(3)**, 201–253.

- LINNAVUORI, R.E., 1999: Studies on the Miridae fauna of Greece (Hemiptera, Heteroptera). *Biologia Gallo-Hellenica* **25**, 25–68.
- PROTIĆ, L.J., 1998: Catalogue of the Heteroptera fauna of Yugoslav countries. Part One. Prirodnjački Muzej u Beogradu, Posebna Izdanja **38**, 1–215.
- PROTIĆ, L.J., 2011: New Heteroptera for the fauna of Serbia. *Bulletin of the Natural History Museum* **4**, 119–125.
- RABITSCH, W., 2004: Annotations to a check-list of the Heteroptera (Insecta) of Austria. *Annalen des Naturhistorischen Museums in Wien* **105B**, 453–492.
- REUTER, O.M., 1902: *Miscellanea Hemipterologica. Öfversigt af Finska Vetenskaps societetens Förhandlingar* **44**, 141–188.
- RIBES, J., 1978: Miridos interesantes de la provincia de Soria (Castilla) (Insecta Heteroptera). *Miscellanea Zoologica* **4**(2), 51–75.
- RIBES, J., 1984: Troballes noves o remarcables d'Hemípters per a Catalunya. III. Sessió d'Entomologia de la Institució Catalana d'Història Natural i la Societat Catalana de Lepidopterologia **3**, 105–115 (in Catalan).
- SCHUH, R.T., 1995: *Plant Bugs of the World (Insecta: Heteroptera: Miridae): Systematic Catalog, Distributions, Host List, and Bibliography*. The New York Entomological Society, New York, xii + 1329 pp.
- WAGNER, E., 1955: Neue *Platycranus*-Arten aus Südfrankreich und Spanien (Heteropt., Miridae). *Revue Française d'Entomologie* **22**, 127–133.
- WAGNER, E., 1974: Die Miridae Hahn, 1831, des Mittelmeerraumes und der Makaronesischen Inseln (Hemiptera, Heteroptera). Teil 2. *Entomologische Abhandlungen*, **39** (Suppl.) (1973), i–ii + 1–421.