

FAVNISTIČNI ZAPISKI / FAUNISTICAL NOTES

TWO NEW RECORDS OF HETEROPTERA SPECIES IN SLOVENIA

Andrej GOGALA¹ & Gabrijel SELJAK²

¹ Prirodoslovni muzej Slovenije, Prešernova 20, p.p. 290, SI-1001 Ljubljana,
e-mail: agogala@pms-lj.si

² Kmetijsko gozdarski zavod Nova Gorica, Pri hrastu 18, 5000 Nova Gorica,
Slovenia

Abstract - *Stephanitis pyrioides* (Scott, 1874), an introduced species, and *Deraeocoris schach* (Fabricius, 1781) are two species of Heteroptera, found in Slovenia for the first time in 2009. The data on the finds are presented.

KEY WORDS: Hemiptera, Tingidae, Miridae, fauna, Slovenia.

Izvleček – DVE NOVI NAJDBI VRST REDA HETEROPTERA V SLOVENIJI
Stephanitis pyrioides (Scott, 1874), zanešena vrsta, in *Deraeocoris schach* (Fabricius, 1781) sta dve vrsti stenec, v Sloveniji prvič najdeni v letu 2009. Predstavljeni so podatki o najdbah.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: Hemiptera, Tingidae, Miridae, favna, Slovenija.

The number of Heteroptera species recorded in Slovenia rose to 738 when two additional species were found in 2009. One of them is a member of the Mediterranean fauna and was found in the most xerotherm locality in the country. The other is an introduced species, a pest of cultivated plants. It is the second new lace bug species recorded in 2009, after discovery of the native *Hyalochiton komaroffii* (Kunz & Frieß 2009).

List of species

TINGIDAE

Stephanitis pyrioides (Scott, 1874)

Nova Gorica, UL98, 90 m, 22. 10. 2009 on *Rhododendron japonicum*, G. Seljak leg.

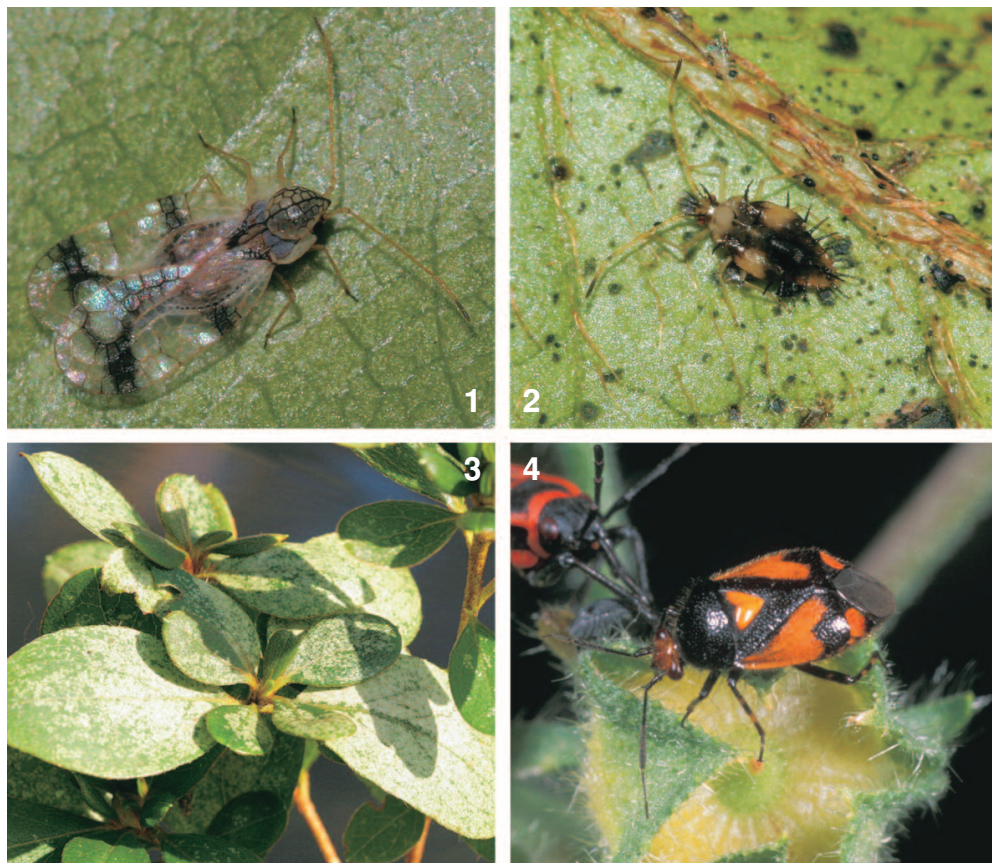


Fig. 1: *Stephanitis pyrioides*, adult.

Fig. 2: *Stephanitis pyrioides*, a nymph on the underside of a leaf.

Fig. 3: Severe injuries on leaves of Japanese azalea. Figs. 1-3 Photo G. Seljak.

Fig. 4: *Deraeocoris schach*, female on a *Malva* sp. plant. Photo A. Gogala.

Originating from China, Japan, Korea, Taiwan and Russian Far East (Péricart & Golub 1996), this lace bug species is transported around the world with ornamental plants. Its food plants are cultivated species of *Rhododendron* (particularly *Azalea*), which are damaged by the bugs sucking leaf cells (Figs. 1-3). It was recorded in Europe (the Netherlands) already in 1905, but populations did not persist for long (Péricart 1983). In 1995 and 1998 new introductions to the Netherlands were recorded, as well as to Greece, Italy, France and Switzerland in recent years (Rabitsch 2008). In the DAISIE database it is recorded also for Albania.

The so-called Azalea lace bug overwinters in the egg stage. It develops 3-5 generations each year (Buss and Turner 2006). The first occurrence of *S. pyrioides* in Nova

Gorica was discovered quite late in the season. Only larvae and nymphs were found on heavily damaged azalea shrubs, but they could be easily reared to adults in lab conditions. The origin of this infestation remains unknown.

MIRIDAE

Deraeocoris schach (Fabricius, 1781)

Osp, VL14, 13. 6. 2009, 1 female on *Malva*, A. Gogala leg.

A Mediterranean and predatory species. It is frequent in Dalmatia. The Slovenian locality is situated at the Karst edge, on a xerotherm slope protected from the bora wind by rock escarpment. The specimen was found on *Malva* sp. (Fig. 4) together with other Heteroptera species. The largest fragment of the Mediterranean macchia in Slovenia is situated in the rock escarpment above the finding place.

Discussion

The number of introduced species is rising in Europe and other parts of the world, mainly as a consequence of globalized trade. A factor contributing to this is probably also global warming which is enabling the spread of many Mediterranean species to the north. Slovenia is not excluded from this trend, so new finds may be expected in the future. Many native species, however, have become scarce and are disappearing.

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