

Scientific Note

New data on the distribution of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann (Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini), including the first record of the species in Georgia

Nuevos datos sobre la distribución de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann (Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini), incluyendo la primera cita de la especie en Georgia

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Abstract. The presence of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* in Albania is confirmed. The first record of the species from Georgia and a recent record in Hamburg, Germany are reported.

Key words: Chorology, Eurasia, Hemiptera.

Resumen. Se confirma la presencia de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* en Albania. Se presentan la primera cita de la especie de Georgia y una cita reciente en Hamburgo, Alemania.

Palabras clave: Corología, Eurasia, Hemiptera.

Recently, *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910, commonly known as the Western Conifer Seed Bug, was reported from Albania for the first time (van der Heyden 2018b). This record was based on a single specimen found dead south-west of Vlorë in southern Albania.

The presence of the species in Albania can be confirmed: On 3-XI-2018, Aleksander Golemaj photographed a living specimen of *L. occidentalis* on his balcony on the seventh floor of a residential building in Vlorë (Fig. 1). Presumably, the specimen was seeking an overwintering site in the building. This behaviour was mentioned by Fent and Kment (2011), Kulijer *et al.* (2017) and Kulijer and Ibrahim (2017).

As mentioned by van der Heyden (2017, 2018a, 2018b), *L. occidentalis* has recently extended its European distribution, in particular in the eastern part of the Mediterranean. The species is spreading even more eastward. Recently, it was reported from Kazakhstan for the first time (Barclay and Nikolaeva 2018).

Another recent finding of *L. occidentalis* confirms the spread of the species at the boundary between Europe and Asia: On 28-X-2018, Mathias D'haen photographed a specimen of *L. occidentalis* on a terrace outside a building in Borjomi in the Samtskhe-Javakheti region in south-central Georgia (Fig. 2). The photograph was first published in the online database iNaturalist (D'haen 2018). The species probably migrated to Georgia coming from one of the neighbouring countries Russia or Turkey where it had been found earlier (Fent and Kment 2011; Gapon 2013; Kulijer *et al.* 2017; van der Heyden 2017, 2018a). It seems unlikely that *L. occidentalis* crossed the Black Sea or the Caspian Sea actively, but the species could also have been introduced to Georgia by ship.

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Figures 1-3. Specimens of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910. 1. Vlorë, Albania, 3-XI-2018. (Photograph: Aleksander Golemaj). 2. Borjomi, Georgia, 28-X-2018. (Photograph: Mathias D'haen). 3. Hamburg, Germany, 8-XI-2018. (Photograph: Torsten van der Heyden).

As *L. occidentalis* has not been reported from Georgia in scientific publications yet, the record reported in this note is the first one for this country.

Furthermore, on 8-XI-2018 a specimen of *L. occidentalis* was observed and photographed on the terrace in the author's backyard in Hamburg in northern Germany (Fig. 3).

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