Scientific Note

First record of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann (Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini) in Costa Rica

Primera cita de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann
(Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini) en Costa Rica

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Abstract. The first record of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* from Costa Rica is reported. Additional information on the distribution of the species is given. Its possible spreading in Latin America is discussed. This is the sixteenth part of a series of publications about different Heteroptera in Costa Rica.

Key words: Invasive species, distribution, Latin America, Europe, Mediterranean Region, Hemiptera.

Resumen. Se presenta la primera cita de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* de Costa Rica. Se da información adicional acerca de la distribución de la especie. Se discute su posible divulgación en América Latina. Esta es la decimosexta parte de una serie de publicaciones sobre diferentes heterópteros en Costa Rica.

Palabras clave: Especie invasora, distribución, América Latina, Europa, Región Mediterránea, Hemiptera.

Leptoglossus occidentalis Heidemann, 1910 (Fig. 1), commonly known as the Western Conifer Seed Bug, is a Nearctic coreid native to western North America and widely distributed in Canada, the United States of America and Mexico (Brailovsky 2014; Lesieur *et al*. 2018).

Recently, this invasive alien species has extended its distribution in Europe and in the Mediterranean Region, in particular in its eastern part (van der Heyden 2017, 2018a, 2018b, 2018c; Lesieur *et al*. 2018), as well as in Chile, where it was very likely introduced by human transport activities (Faúndez and Rocca 2017; Faúndez *et al*. 2017, 2018).

An adult specimen of *L. occidentalis* was photographed in the district of San Rafael in the province of Alajuela, located in the Central Valley of Costa Rica. The photograph was published in the online database iNaturalist as taken on 28-XI-2018 (Aguilar 2018).

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

In 2014, the newly described *Leptoglossus franckei* Brailovsky, 2014 and *Leptoglossus gonagra* (Fabricius, 1775), two other of 62 species within the genus *Leptoglossus* Guérin-Méneville, 1831, were reported for Costa Rica for the first time (Brailovsky 2014; van der Heyden and Gamboa Hidalgo 2014; CoreoideaSF Team 2019). Thus, *L. occidentalis* is the sixteenth species of the genus *Leptoglossus* reported for this country.

Very likely, *L. occidentalis* was accidentally introduced to Costa Rica. Research should be done to investigate whether there exists an established population of the species in the country. In that case, it could possibly serve as a bridgehead between the populations in the southern part of North America and in Chile.

Figure 1. Specimen of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910. (Photograph: Torsten van der Heyden).

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