

Occurrence of the Southern Green Stink Bug, *Nezara viridula* (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) in Hungary

D. RÉDEI¹ and A. TORMA²

¹Department of Entomology, Faculty of Horticultural Sciences, Szent István University, H–1118 Budapest, Ménesi út 44, Hungary

²Department of Ecology, University of Szeged, H–6701 Szeged, P. O. Box 51, Hungary

This is the first report on the occurrence of *Nezara viridula* in Hungary.

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The geographical origin of the southern green stink bug *Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus, 1758) (Figs 1, 2) is still uncertain but it is believed to have originated in eastern Africa and/or Mediterranean (Hokkanen, 1986). During the last 250 years it has spread all over the world through human trade and agriculture. At present it occurs in the tropical and subtropical regions all around the world and it is still spreading to new areas. Specimens of populations from different continents do not differ morphologically. However, there is genetic differentiation among them, so the taxon *N. viridula* may contain unrecognized sibling species (Meglič et al., 2001).

The occurrence of the species was expected in the southern part of Hungary (Halászfy, 1959), since it is widely distributed and common in the Mediterranean region of Europe. Recently some specimens have been found in Hungary. List of localities: Budapest: Kőbánya–Kispest, at railway station, 02. X. 2002, leg. Rédei (1 ♂, ab. *torquata* (Fabricius, 1775)). – Szeged: Boszorkánysziget (bank of the river Tisza), 26. VI. 2000, leg. Bajkó (1 ♂); Boszorkánysziget, 24. VI. 2002, leg. Torma (3 L_V); Gyálai Holt-Tisza, 10. VII. 2001, leg. Kállai (1 ♀); in flat, 01. X. 2002, leg. Fülöp (1 ♂); in flat, 13. X. 2002, leg. Fülöp (1 ♀, ab. *aurantiaca* A. Costa, 1884). – Szeged–Kiskundorozsma: 18. VII. 2001, leg. Orosz (1 ♀).

Most of the specimens which have so far been collected in Hungary, were found in the southern part of the country (Szeged and Szeged–Kiskundorozsma). The expansion of several Mediterranean Heteroptera species [e.g. *Oxycarenus lavaterae* (Fabricius, 1787), *Arocatus longiceps* (Stål, 1872)] has been observed in Hungary lately. Therefore, it is possible that *N. viridula* will spread to other parts of Hungary, too. A single specimen which probably spread through human transport, has already been found in Budapest at a railway station. Also some 5th instar nymphs have been found in Szeged. This indicates

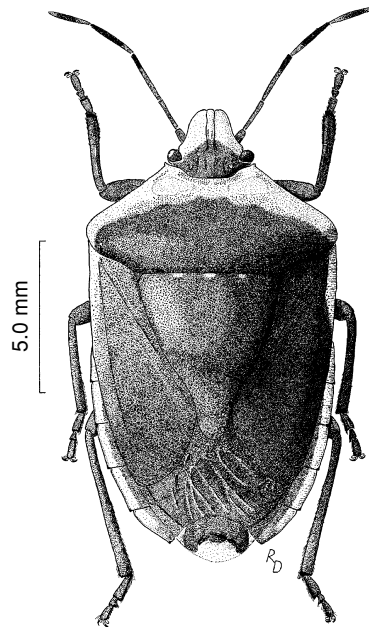


Fig. 1. *Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus) ab. *torquata* (Fabricius), adult

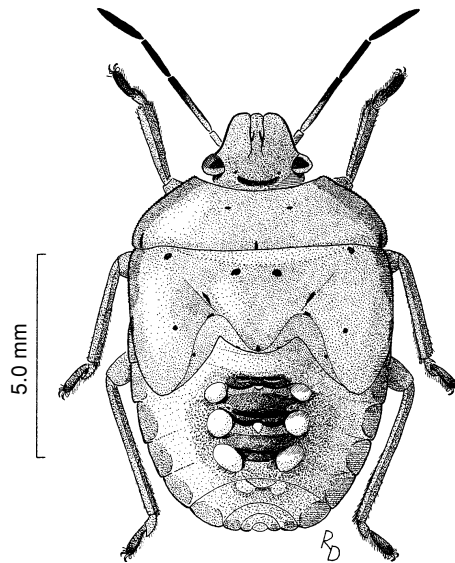


Fig. 2. *Nezara viridula* (Linnaeus), 5th instar nymph, light form

that the species may reproduce in the southern part of the country, yet it is doubtful whether it can overwinter.

The southern green stink bug is highly polyphagous, feeding on more than 100 plant species of more than 30 families but preferring legumens and brassicas (Panizzi, 1997). Data on its bionomics were summarized by Todd (1989). It is an economically important pest of many field crops (tobacco, sunflower), vegetables (bean, green bean, soybean, cabbage, head cabbage, mustard cabbage, beet, eggplant, tomato, potato, cucumber, water-melon), fruit trees (apricot) and ornamental plants (gladiolus, castor bean). Legume crops and tomato suffer most seriously. Adults and 2nd to 5th instar nymphs feed on all parts of the plants with preference for growing shoots and developing flowers or fruits. The damage on fruit is brownish or black spots, and even premature abscission. Seriously damaged plants generally wilt. The species can be chemically controlled by carbamates and organophosphate compounds. A world review of its parasitoids was given by Jones (1988).

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