

First record of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* HEIDEMANN, 1910 (Heteroptera: Coreidae) from Cyprus

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Abstract

The western conifer seed bug, *Leptoglossus occidentalis* HEIDEMANN, 1910, an invasive, originally Nearctic species, is reported from the island of Cyprus for the first time. The new record is discussed.

Key words: Heteroptera, Coreinae, Anisoscelini, invasive species, distribution, Mediterranean Region, Republic of Cyprus.

Zusammenfassung

Die Amerikanische Kiefernwanze, *Leptoglossus occidentalis* HEIDEMANN, 1910, eine invasive, ursprünglich nearktische Art, wird erstmals von der Insel Zypern gemeldet. Der Neufund wird diskutiert.

Introduction

Since its first detection in Italy in 1999, the western conifer seed bug, *Leptoglossus occidentalis* HEIDEMANN, 1910, has spread over most of Europe (VAN DER HEYDEN 2019a). Recently, the species has extended its distribution area in the most eastern part of the Mediterranean Region (VAN DER HEYDEN 2019b).

New record of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* and discussion

Material examined: Republic of Cyprus, Paphos District, Paphos Forest, northeast of Kannaviou Reservoir, N34°56.75', E32°36.9', 470 m a.s.l., 6.IV.2019, 1 ♀, leg. & det. H. Zettel, coll. Natural History Museum Vienna.

Description of habitat: The Paphos Forest is located in the western part of the Troodos Mountains. It is a state forest chiefly composed of Mediterranean pine forests. The locality where *Leptoglossus occidentalis* was found holds old growth trees of *Pinus brutia*, some of them more than 50 cm in diameter. It was close to a small stream and to a forest road. The specimen was found on low shrubs (unidentified) after windy weather.

Distribution in the region: Recently, *Leptoglossus occidentalis* has been reported from Turkey, in both the western and the eastern part of the country (FENT & KMENT 2011, ÖZGEN et al. 2017), Lebanon (NEMER 2015), the Golan Heights (VAN DER HEYDEN 2018) and Israel (VAN DER HEYDEN 2019b). As the island of Cyprus is located in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Region and very close to the localities of aforementioned recent records of *L. occidentalis* in that area, the presence of the species on the island had been expected. The species might have reached Cyprus actively, as *L. occidentalis* is known to fly well

and to reach islands (VAN DER HEYDEN 2017), or passively, transported by a boat or ship, very likely introduced from a nearby coast. As the site of the first record is located more than 100 km from the nearest coast and about 3 km from the next settlement, we suspect that *L. occidentalis* already lived on Cyprus undiscovered for a longer time.

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