

First records of *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) for Serbia

Torsten van der Heyden

Immenweide 83, D-22523 Hamburg, Germany.

E-mail: tmvdh@web.de ORCID iD: 0000-0003-4138-7160

ABSTRACT: The first records of the Nearctic assassin bug species *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae: Harpactorini) for Serbia are reported. The spread of the species in the Mediterranean Region is summarised and discussed.

KEYWORDS: *Zelus renardii*, invasive species, first records, distribution, Serbia, Mediterranean Region.

The Nearctic leafhopper assassin bug *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae: Harpactorini) is an invasive species with an exceptional spreading ability. In less than 15 years after the first European records of the species in Greece (Davranoglou, 2011; Petrakis & Moulet, 2011) and in Spain (Baena & Torres, 2012; Vivas, 2012), *Z. renardii* established stable populations in various countries of the Mediterranean Region (Kment & van der Heyden, 2022; van der Heyden, 2022, 2023; John & Kolokotronis, 2023; Kulijer et al., 2024; iNaturalist, 2025).

Herein, the first records of *Z. renardii* in Serbia are reported: On 19.09.2024 and on 11.07.2025, two adult specimens were found in Duvanište, a district of the city of Niš, located in the south-eastern part of the country. Photos of both specimens and related data were uploaded to the online database iNaturalist by a user with the pseudonym sanca13 (2024, 2025).

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These recent records from Serbia confirm the ongoing spread of *Z. renardii* in the Mediterranean Region (Fig. 1).

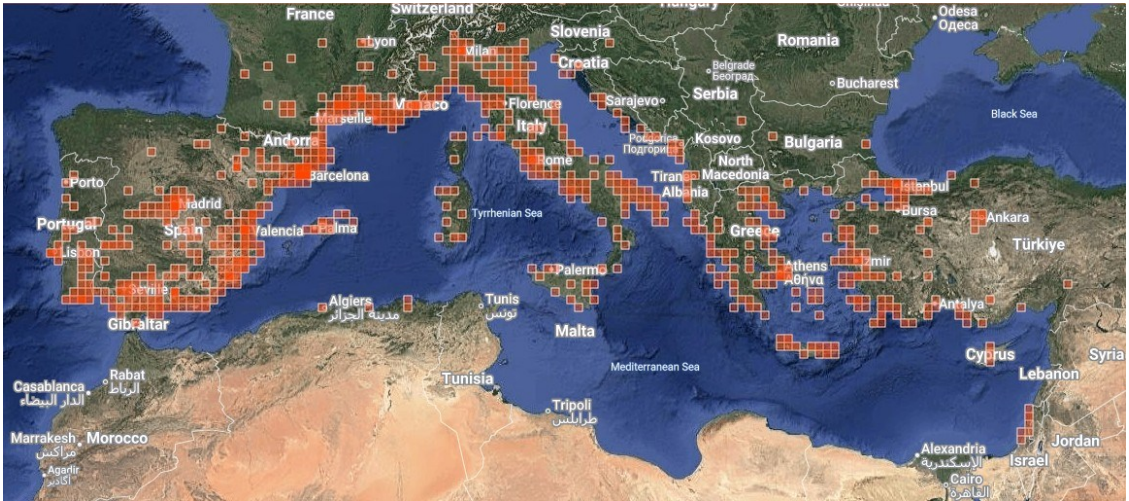


Figure 1. Distribution of *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 in the Mediterranean Region. (Map created using iNaturalist (2025)).

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