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First record of the brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae), in Hungary, with description of the genitalia of both sexes

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Abstract

The brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål, 1855) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Pentatomidae) is recorded for the first time from Hungary. The circumstances of finding this species and a detailed description of both male and female genitalia are given. The currently known distribution, biology and significance of the species are briefly reviewed.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, *Halyomorpha halys*, Hungary, invasive species, genitalia

Introduction

The number of new records per year of arthropod species alien to Europe has significantly increased since the middle of the 20th century. A total of 1590 species of arthropods alien to Europe have already established on the continent. These species are dispersed across 33 taxonomic orders; however, insects largely dominate. The order Hemiptera accounts for 20% of the total species number (Roques 2010).

Forty-two alien species of Heteroptera have already established in Europe, 12 of which originated outside the continent (Rabitsch 2008). More than half of the alien true bugs are phytophagous. However, the total number of alien Heteroptera of Europe has already increased since the first attempt of a comprehensive survey by Rabitsch (2008), and reached forty-eight within a very short period (Rabitsch 2010). The family Pentatomidae is represented by only one phytophagous species alien to Europe, which is the brown marmorated stink bug, *Halyomorpha halys* (Stål, 1855) (Rabitsch 2010).

A pentatomid nymph of ‘unusual appearance’ was noticed during a visit to Péterimajor, Budapest (19.ix.2013). A few weeks later (11.x.2013) an adult stink bug, identified as *H. halys*, was intercepted inside a building in the territory of the Buda Arboretum, Budapest, which called the authors’ attention to the species and made them decide to visit the locality at Péterimajor again (30.x.2013). Targeted beat sampling in a coppice close to an apple orchard at Péterimajor resulted in the capture of several additional adults and a nymph (30.x.2013). These captures represent the first records of *H. halys* in Hungary (cf. Kondorosy 1999, 2012), significantly extending the known European range of the species.

Given the fact that the species looks markedly different from most North American and European pentatomids (Hoebeke & Carter 2003, Wyniger & Kment 2010), the identification of the species is easy. However, *Halyomorpha* is a species-rich genus currently containing nearly 40 species (Wyniger & Kment 2010), roughly half of them distributed in the Afrotropical, the rest in the Oriental Region, with one species described from New Caledonia. Although Josifov & Kerzhner (1978) elucidated taxonomic and nomenclatural problems about the East Asian species, the majority of the Oriental fauna is badly in need of a revision. For facilitating work on the Asian species, detailed figures of genitalia of both sexes of *H. halys* are provided in the present paper.

In Europe, *H. halys* was first reported based on specimens captured in Zürich, Switzerland, in 2007 (Wermelinger *et al.* 2008), but in fact a specimen was already found in a light trap in Liechtenstein as early as 2004 (Arnold 2009). Later it was observed in Germany (Konstanz) in 2011 (Heckmann 2012), in France (Strasbourg, Alsace region) in 2012 (Callot & Brua 2013) and also in Italy (Magreta di Formigine, Emilia-Romagna region) in the same year (EPPO 2013). The specimens reported here represent the first record of the species in Hungary.

Bionomics, pest status. *Halyomorpha halys* is highly polyphagous and has been documented feeding on economically important plants, e.g. fruit trees, legumes, deciduous hardwoods and ornamentals, but the species was found also on weeds (Bernon 2004, Wermelinger *et al.* 2008, Nielsen & Hamilton 2009, Leskey *et al.* 2012). At Péterimajor, Budapest, specimens were collected on *A. negundo*, *E. europaeus* and *S. japonica*. In late October specimens usually do not feed but rather move to hibernation refugia, therefore host plant relationship with these plants could not be demonstrated.

Holtz & Kamminga (2010) note, however, that *H. halys* may feed on plants that are not true hosts, viz. they cannot support development of consecutive nymphal stages for multiple years. The bionomics and life history of the species in Japan was studied by Kawada & Kitamura (1983) and others, in China by Zhang *et al.* (1993) and Chu & Zhou (1997), and in the US by Nielsen & Hamilton (2009).

Severe damage and significant yield loss of peach, apple, tomato, pepper, sweet corn and soybean caused by *H. halys* in the US have already been reported (Leskey *et al.* 2012). The species is a vector of the phytoplasma responsible for paulownia witches' broom (PaWB) in China (Sun *et al.* 1999) and Japan (Nakano *et al.* 1997). Moreover, *H. halys* is considered a nuisance pest, because adults aggregate in high numbers on outer surfaces of homes and indoors when seeking overwintering sites, and emit a noxious scent if disturbed (Hoebeke & Carter 2003, Bernon 2004, Nielsen & Hamilton 2009, Rabitsch 2010, Inkley 2012, Leskey *et al.* 2012). The species can also induce significant allergic sensitization (Mertz *et al.* 2012).

Based on the facts described above and definition given by the NISC (2006), *H. halys* can be considered an invasive species.

Migration, populations in Hungary. The way of arrival of *H. halys* to Hungary is unknown. Being active fliers and highly mobile (Fogain & Graff 2011, Zhang *et al.* 1993), specimens might have reached the country by natural dispersal from the west. Because the species has not been reported from any of the neighbouring countries so far, this possibility is rather unlikely, but it may not be excluded. Assuming this mode of dispersal, scattered populations might be present in the region between Hungary and those Central European countries where *H. halys* has already been recorded. Nevertheless, since Budapest is a node of national and international transportation, it is more probable that specimens may have also been introduced passively by human activity, as it has been confirmed on a number of occasions in other countries (Harris 2010, Fogain & Graff 2011). The occurrence of specimens at two localities of about 12 km distance suggests that small, isolated populations might already exist in Budapest. A single 5th instar captured at Péterimajor in late October indicates that reproductive individuals were present in the area at least in the middle or end of the summer of the same year.

Monitoring the distribution and survey on the biology of *H. halys* in agricultural, forest and urban areas in Europe are needed because of the potential threat of the pest in the continent.

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