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Review of *Hydrometra gracilenta* Horváth, 1899 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Hydrometridae) in Italy, with notes on its general distribution

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Abstract

An annotated review of the known Italian distribution of *Hydrometra gracilenta* Horváth, 1899 is provided, plus unpublished data including a new record which increases the previously known range of the species in Italy. An updated map shows the currently known distribution of the taxon in Italy. An overlooked nomenclatural change is discussed, and the date of description for the genus *Hydrometra* Lateille is corrected from 1796 to 1797. The presence of *H. gracilenta* is excluded from Egypt, Sudan, and Rwanda.

Key words: Heteroptera, Gerromorpha, *Hydrometra*, *Hydrometra gracilenta*, Italy, Egypt, Sudan, Rwanda, distribution, new records

Introduction

Hydrometra gracilenta Horváth, 1899 is a species distributed over Central and Northern Europe, extending southwards to France (absent in the Iberian Peninsula), Northern Italy, the Balkan Peninsula, Bulgaria and Greece. Its eastern distribution spreads over Russia, Azerbaijan, Iran and across Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan), reaching Northwestern China and Mongolia; whilst northwards, through Russia, the species reaches the Far East and Japan (Andersen 1995; Aukema *et al.* 2013). In North Africa the species has been recorded in Morocco (Gheit 1995). Further records for Africa are subsequently discussed in this paper.

To date, all records of the species in Italy were limited to the north of the country, with no recorded finding south of the Po river area. These records are very scattered, and it is often difficult to decipher whether some quotations indicate different records, or rather quote the same material. This note also aims to reorganise and verify all the Italian records.

Material and methods

Quotations for Italy are reported under the name of the species, whilst the detailed locality data is quoted as “published records”, followed by “new records”.

All the records are ordered as follows: region, municipality and the official abbreviated province name in parentheses, water body, altitude (metres a.s.l.), georeferencing (geographic coordinates in decimal degrees; datum: WGS84), date, collector/s, number of specimens, sex and (possibly) wing morph, repository, bibliographic reference/s with original citations (in quotation marks). Deduced data is in square brackets.

Regions are essentially listed from north to south and from west to east. The name of the municipality and the locality indications are listed in alphabetical order according to the abbreviated province name for each region.