



First records of *Heterotoma merioptera* (Scopoli, 1763) and *Aradus serbicus* (Horváth, 1888) (Heteroptera: Miridae et Aradidae) from Germany

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Abstract

The plant bug *Heterotoma merioptera* (Scopoli, 1763) and the flat bug *Aradus serbicus* (Horváth, 1888) are recorded for the first time from Germany. Annotations on the circumstances of finding as well as remarks on the species general distribution are given. *A. serbicus* is considered to represent an ancient, primeval forest relict species within Central Europe; whereas *H. merioptera* may have some bearing on global warming.

Key words: Heteroptera, Miridae, Aradidae, Germany, faunistics, ecology

Introduction

In order to add important distributional data and to allow for appropriate referencing and classification within the Red Data List of Heteroptera of the Federal Republic of Germany as well as the update of the Catalogue of Palaearctic Heteroptera currently in preparation, information on two species of true bugs recently recorded for the first time in Germany is provided in this paper. The respective material is deposited in the author's private collection.

Heterotoma merioptera (Scopoli, 1763) (Miridae, Orthotylinae, Orthotylini)

Material: Germany, Saxony, Daubitz NW Walddorf, Heiderandweg – Wolfsstein env., on *Vaccinium myrtillus* L., 6.ix.2008, 1♀, C. Morkel leg. et det. (Fig. 1)

The comprehensive paper of Kment & Bryja (2006) summarises all information on *Heterotoma merioptera* available so far, providing revised distributional, biological, and ecological data as well as diagnostic characters. Previously frequently confused with the closely related *H. planicornis* (Pallas, 1772) of generally European distribution, the occurrence of *H. merioptera* seems to be limited to the southeastern European countries, extending to Asia Minor and the Near East (Kment & Bryja 2006). *H. merioptera* is considered to be the more thermophilous of the two species, occurring in natural and semi-natural habitats (Kment & Bryja 2006).

The current record from the eastern border of Germany extends the known distributional area of *H. merioptera* at its northwestern range. The ecological finding circumstances on *Vaccinium myrtillus* in pine forest are similar to those given by Herczek (1979, cited in Kment & Bryja 2006) in nearby Poland.

As Heteroptera are valuable indicators of climatic change (Rabitsch 2008), further investigations should prove if *H. merioptera* may continue to extend its distributional range, and thus be considered as a species recently benefiting from global warming.