

NOTA / NOTE

First records of *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Lygaeidae: Lygaeinae) for Albania and France.

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Abstract: The first records of *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854 (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) in Albania and France are reported. Additional information on the distribution and the ecology of this species is given.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Lygaeidae, Lygaeinae, *Lygaeus creticus*, distribution, ecology, first records, Albania, France.

Resumen: Primeras citas de *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Lygaeidae: Lygaeinae) para Albania y Francia. Se publican las primeras citas de *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854 (Hemiptera: Lygaeidae) en Albania y Francia. Se aporta también información adicional sobre la distribución y la ecología de esta especie.

Palabras clave: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Lygaeidae, Lygaeinae, *Lygaeus creticus*, distribución, ecología, primeras citas, Albania, Francia.

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The genus *Lygaeus* Fabricius, 1794 includes 25 species (BioLib.cz, 2017). As a warning to potential predators, the species within the genus are aposematically coloured red and orange (Henry *et al.*, 2015).

Lygaeus creticus Lucas, 1854 has a Ponto-Mediterranean distribution, extending to Middle Asia and the Near East. So far, the species has been reported from Italy (including the islands of Sardinia and Sicily), Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Macedonia, Greece (including the islands of Corfu and Crete), Cyprus, Turkey, Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Syria, Jordan, Israel, Libya and Malta (Dioli & Grazioli, 2012; BioLib.cz, 2017; Dellapé & Henry, 2017; GBIF.org, 2017). Its presence in Saudi Arabia is considered doubtful (Dioli & Grazioli, 2012; GBIF.org, 2017).

Nerium oleander L. (Apocynaceae) and *Sorbus cretica* (Lindley) Fritsch & Rechner in Kerner (Rosaceae) are listed as host plants of *L. creticus* (GBIF.org, 2017). It is doubtful that *S. cretica* is a host plant of the bug species.

Recently, Aleksander Golemaj was able to take photographs of nymphs and imagoes of *L. creticus* in the city of Vlorë in southern Albania. Four imagoes were photographed on 13.02.2017 (Fig. 1). Several nymphs were photographed on 4.05.2017 and 9.05.2017 (Fig. 2). Furthermore, a photograph of a teneral imago was taken on 4.05.2017 (Fig. 3). On 14.03.2017, *L. creticus* was observed on the island of Corsica, France, when Alexandre Cornuel-Willermoz observed five specimens in the city of Corte. One of them can be seen in Fig. 4.

L. creticus has neither been explicitly reported from Albania nor from France in scientific publications, yet. So the records reported in this paper are the first ones for these countries. In addition, the reproduction of the species in Albania can be confirmed, as nymphs and imagoes have been found.

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Figs. 1-3. - *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854, Vlorë, Albania. 1.- Imagos, 13.02.2017. 2.- Nymphs, 9.05.2017. 3.- Teneral imago, 4.05.2017. (Photographs: Aleksander Golemaj).

Fig. 4. - *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854, Corte, Corsica, France. Imago, 14.03.2017. (Photograph: Alexandre Cornuel-Willermoz).