

NOTA BREVE / SHORT NOTE

First records of *Hierodula transcaucasica* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878 in Slovenia and Spain (Mantodea: Mantidae)

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Primeras citas de *Hierodula transcaucasica* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878 en Eslovenia y España (Mantodea: Mantidae)

Palabras clave: Mantodea, Mantidae, *Hierodula transcaucasica*, especie invasora, primeras citas, Eslovenia, España.

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Hierodula transcaucasica Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878 (Mantodea: Mantidae), a large mantis with a mainly Asiatic distribution, is an invasive species currently spreading in the eastern part of the Mediterranean Region, particularly on the Balkan Peninsula and on islands of the Aegean Sea (Romanowski *et al.*, 2019; van der Heyden & Schwarz, 2021).

Recently, *H. transcaucasica* was detected in Slovenia and Spain:

- On 27.08.2021, a nymph was photographed in Ljubljana by Alenka Bogovič (Fig. 1a). The photo was uploaded to the online database iNaturalist (under the pseudonym "lenca") ([see here](#)). The specimen was found in a garden in the center of Ljubljana while resting on a stalk of *Asparagus* sp. (Asparagaceae) (Alenka Bogovič, pers. comm.).
- On 07.09.2021, an adult specimen of *H. transcaucasica* was observed and photographed in Madrid, in the district Alameda de Osuna, by Sergio López Castelo (Fig. 1b). Various photos of the specimen were uploaded to the online database iNaturalist (under the pseudonym "sergiolc_2077--el_avistador") ([see here](#)).

Both findings reported here were made in urban areas, which is in concordance with most records in other parts of the recently colonized area, as stated by van der Heyden & Schwarz (2021).

Apparently, *H. transcaucasica* is currently increasing its European distribution area in two directions: from the Balkan Peninsula northward and from the north of the Mediterranean Basin westward. So far, the record from Madrid is the westernmost one of *H. transcaucasica* in Europe.

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References

Romanowski, J., Battiston, R. & Hristov, G. 2019. First Records of *Hierodula transcaucasica* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878 (Mantodea: Mantidae) in the Balkan Peninsula. *Acta Zoologica Bulgarica*, **71**(2): 297-300.

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Fig. 1.- *Hierodula transcaucasica* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1878. a.- Nymph, Ljubljana, Slovenia. (Photo: Alenka Bogovič). b.- Adult specimen, Madrid, Spain. (Photo: Sergio López Castelo).

