

The hostplant of *Elasmostethus brevis* Lindberg (Hem., Heteroptera)

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In 1967 I recorded *Elasmostethus brevis* Lindberg (Pentatomoidea) as new to the Swedish fauna. Out of the three males in question two were discovered in the collection of the Entomological Museum in Lund and the third one was found in my own collection. No ecological data were available. My endeavours to find more specimens by visiting the locality where I once found my single male were resultless and all *Elasmostethus* males collected there turned out to belong to our common birch-inhabiting species, *interstinctus*.

On the 15th of August, 1969, I collected Hemiptera in Upl., Östhammar, St. Torrön. By beating the branches of a female *Salix pentandra* tree I obtained several *Elasmostethus* specimens, larvae as well as adults. All the males were identified as *brevis*. More material of the same species was collected on another *Salix pentandra* ♀ in the vicinity, but no specimens were found on *S. pentandra* trees and bushes without fruits. Apparently *Elasmostethus brevis* does feed on these fruits. After this discovery I have been able to collect *E. brevis* from *Salix pentandra* ♀ on several localities, viz. Sdm., Länna 22.VIII 1969, Upl., Vallentuna near Fagermoda 7.IX 1969, Vallentuna, vicinity of Veda 13.IX 1969, and Upsala, Rosendal 17.IX 1969. Fifth-instar larvae were found with the imagines as late as on the 17th of September.

According to Kerzhner (1964) the hostplant of *Elasmostethus brevis* was unknown so far. Among a large number of specimens examined by Kerzhner, 2 males were stated to have been found on *Salix*, one male having been collected on *Betula* and another on *Juglans manchurica*. After the experiences above reported I do not doubt that the genuine hostplant, under our conditions is *Salix pentandra* ♀, and I shall not be surprised if *E. brevis* is found to be common everywhere within the geographical range of this plant species.

References

- KERZHNER, I. M., 1964. On the distribution of *Elasmostethus brevis* Lindb. (Heteroptera, Acanthosomatidae). Zool. zhurn. 43: 10.
OSSIANNILSSON, F., 1967. Anmärkningar och tillägg till Sveriges heteropterfauna (Hem.). Ent. Tidskr. 88: 1—2.