

Sciocoris homalonotus Fieb. in Sweden, a Shield Bug (Hem.-Het., Pentatomidae) New to Northern Europe

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COULIANOS, C.-C. *Sciocoris homalonotus* Fieb. in Sweden, a shield bug (Hem.-Het., Pentatomidae) new to Northern Europe. — Ent. Tidskr. 97: 115—116, 1976.

The species is recorded from the provinces of Uppland (2 localities) and Södermanland (1 locality) in the Lake Mälaren region at 59°30' N.

This is an isolated occurrence of this Mediterranean species, its continuous distribution reaches southern France, southern Moravia (CSSR) and southern USSR up to 52° N. The occurrence in the Mälaren region of other Heteroptera with a south or southeast European main distribution is noted.

Sciocoris homalonotus Fieb. is here recorded from the following Swedish localities: Uppland, Färentuna, 500 m E of Noralund 14.5.1970, 7 ♂♂ 3 ♀♀ (C.-C. Coulianos leg. & coll.), Uppland, Bondkyrko, Vårdsättra 18.5.1948, 1 ♀ (O. Lundblad leg. in coll. Riksmuseum, Stockholm. Recorded as *Sciocoris* ? *macrocephalus* Fieb. by Lundblad (1954: 54)). Södermanland, Mörkö, Däderö 4.4.1969, 2 ♂♂ 2 ♀♀ (P. Ragnarsson and C. Solbreck leg. & coll.).

In the field this species made the impression of a large *Sciocoris microphthalmus* Flor. It was identified according to Wagner (1965) and compared to specimens of *S. homalonotus* from CSSR, kindly provided by Dr. Pavel Štys, Praha.

The lengths of the Swedish specimens are (mean and range): ♂ (N=9) 6.6 (6.4—6.7) mm, ♀ (N=6) 7.5 (7.4—7.6) mm and thus fall well within the range mentioned in the literature. All the specimens were macropterous.

The locality at Färentuna is dominated by deciduous woodland intermingled with arable land. The habitat proper was within a south-exposed grass field, at the border of a

small rock-hill. The animals only occurred within a narrow strip along this border. The vegetation here was dominated by grasses (*Dactylis glomerata*, *Poa pratensis* and *Bromus mollis*) and *Geranium pusillum*. The locality was visited (but no collections made) on 16.8.1970 (5th instar larvae and adults were observed) and on 22.5.1973 (adults observed).

The species evidently hibernates as adults. These were very active during the spring, running upon the litter layer, and were then very easy to detect. This is perhaps the reason why the Swedish records were made during the spring. In the Ukrainian SSR (Puchkov 1961: 210) the species hibernates as an adult, lays eggs during April—June and new adults appear during the later part of July.

The food-biology seems to be unknown. At the Färentuna locality, 5th instar larvae and adults were seen to suck underground parts of different grasses.

The habitats at Vårdsättra (Lundblad 1954: 54) and at Mörkö (C. Solbreck pers. comm.) are of exactly the same type as at Färentuna. According to Puchkov (op. cit.) the species

lives in deciduous woodlands, especially at the ground in more open parts and clearings.

According to Stichel (1962: 226) and Wagner (1966: 54) it is a Mediterranean species known from Portugal, Spain, Italy and North Africa, eastwards occurring in Iran. W of the Alps it reaches southern France, and E of the Alps it is found in the Vienna basin, northwards to southern Moravia in the CSSR. In southern USSR it is distributed northwards to 52°N. (Polesia — Kursk — Voronezj — Pensen — Ural districts) (Puchkov op. cit.).

The Swedish localities (Vårdsätra at 59°45', Färentuna at 59°30' and Mörkö at 59°N.) thus represent a very isolated occurrence of this species. The distance between Vårdsätra and Mörkö is about 80 km.

It is interesting to note that these localities are within the Lake Mälaren region, which is well known for the occurrence of several insect species which are rare or not found in the rest of Sweden or Fennoscandia. Among the Heteroptera this applies to e.g. *Deraeocoris trifasciatus* L., *Megaloceraea recticornis* (Geoffr.), *Megacoelum infusum* (H.-S.), *Stictopleurus punctatonevrosus* (Goeze) and *Graphosoma lineatum* (L.) (cf. Ossiannilsson

1961: 231). All these species, including *Sciocoris homalonotus*, are characterized by having a south or southeastern European main distribution and by inhabiting light, open deciduous woodlands within their continuous distribution areas.

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