

Scientific Note

**First record of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann
(Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini) in Albania**

Primera cita de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann
(Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini) en Albania

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Abstract. The first record of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* from Albania is reported. Additional information on the European distribution of the species is given.

Key words: Distribution, Europe, Hemiptera.

Resumen. Se presenta la primera cita de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* en Albania. Se da información adicional acerca de la distribución europea de la especie.

Palabras clave: Distribución, Europa, Hemiptera.

Leptoglossus occidentalis Heidemann, 1910, commonly known as the Western Conifer Seed Bug, is a highly dispersible Nearctic coreid. Recently, this invasive alien species has extended its European distribution, in particular in the eastern part of the Mediterranean (van der Heyden 2017, 2018).

Kulijer and Ibrahim (2017) reported the first records of *L. occidentalis* in Kosovo and stated: "This finding complements the known range of the species in the Balkan Peninsula with Albania now being the only country without confirmation of its presence." This gap can be closed now.

On 31-VIII-2018, Aleksander Golemaj photographed a specimen of *L. occidentalis* found dead south-west of Vlorë in southern Albania (Fig. 1). The photograph was first published in the online database iNaturalist (Golemaj 2018). The specimen was found in an area of reed surrounded by pine trees.

Interestingly, *L. occidentalis* was found on the nearby Greek island of Corfu just a few days earlier. On 9-VIII-2018, Tonnie Connolly (2018) photographed several specimens in Sidari at the northern coast of the island. The distance between Vlorë and Corfu is less than 100 km.

L. occidentalis has not been reported from Albania in scientific publications, yet. Thus, the record reported in this note is the first one for this country.

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Figure 1. Specimen of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910, Vlorë, Albania, 31-VIII-2018. (Photograph: Aleksander Golemaj). Scale: 5 mm.

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