

NOTA / NOTE

First records of *Zelus renardii* (Kolenati, 1856) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae) for Albania.

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Abstract: The first records of *Zelus renardii* (Kolenati, 1856) (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) in Albania are reported. Additional information on the ecology and the distribution of this species is given.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Harpactorinae, *Zelus renardii*, zoophagous, distribution, ecology, first records, Albania.

Resumen: Primeras citas de *Zelus renardii* (Kolenati, 1856) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae) para Albania. Se publican las primeras citas de *Zelus renardii* (Kolenati, 1856) (Hemiptera: Reduviidae) en Albania. Se aporta también información adicional sobre la ecología y la distribución de esta especie.

Palabras clave: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Reduviidae, Harpactorinae, *Zelus renardii*, zoófago, distribución, ecología, primeras citas, Albania.

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The genus *Zelus* Fabricius, 1803 is one of the largest within the family Reduviidae (Hemiptera). It is considered endemic to the New World with a distribution that ranges from Canada to Argentina and Chile. Species of *Zelus* are zoophagous and prey on a wide range of insects (Zhang *et al.*, 2016).

The only species of the genus that has been introduced to Europe is *Zelus renardii* (Kolenati, 1856). So far it has been reported from Greece (Davranoglou, 2011; Petrakis & Moulet, 2011) including the island of Crete (van der Heyden, 2015), Spain (Baena & Torres, 2012; Vivas, 2012), Italy (Dioli, 2013) and Turkey (European and Asian parts) (Çerçi & Koçak, 2016).

As other members of the genus *Zelus*, *Z. renardii* preys on a wide range of insects, such as species within the families Aphididae and Psyllidae (Homoptera), Miridae (Heteroptera), Noctuidae (Lepidoptera) or Coccinellidae (Coleoptera) (Vivas, 2012).

Recently, Aleksander Golemaj was able to take photographs of several specimens of *Z. renardii* in the city of Vlorë in southern Albania.

The photographs were taken on 22.11.2016 (Fig. 1), 15.12.2016, 20.6.2017 and 30.6.2017 (Fig. 2). Aleksander Golemaj wrote that he mostly saw *Z. renardii* on leaves of *Nerium oleander* L. (Apocynaceae) in small gardens in Vlorë. Furthermore, he wrote that *Z. renardii* is a very good predator and that he saw specimens feeding on mosquitos, flies and especially larvae of *Lygaeus creticus* Lucas, 1854 (Lygaeidae) (personal communication).

Z. renardii has not been reported from Albania in scientific publications, yet. So the records reported in this paper are the first ones for this country.

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Figs. 1-2.- *Zelus renardii* (Kolenati, 1856), Vlorë, Albania. (Photographs: Aleksander Golemaj).

1.- Freshly moulted specimen with exuvia, 22.11.2016.

2.- Specimen with a prey, 30.06.2017.