

**FIRST RECORD OF *HOLCOGASTER FIBULATA* IN SLOVENIA  
(HETEROPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE)**Andrej GOGALA<sup>1</sup>, Janez KAMIN<sup>2</sup>

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**Abstract** – A specimen of *Holcogaster fibulata* (Germar, 1831) was found in Nova Gorica in August 2022. This is the first find of the species in Slovenia. The finding may show the spread of the species which is gaining ground also at the Atlantic coast of Europe.

KEY WORDS: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, fauna, Slovenia

**Izveček – PRVA NAJDBA STENICE *HOLCOGASTER FIBULATA* V  
SLOVENIJI HETEROPTERA: PENTATOMIDAE)**

Primerek vrste *Holcogaster fibulata* (Germar, 1831) je bil najden v Novi Gorici v avgustu 2022. To je prva najdba vrste v Sloveniji. Najdba lahko kaže na širjenje vrste, ki pridobiva ozemlje tudi ob atlantski obali Evrope.

KLJUČNE BESEDE: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, favna, Slovenija

*Holcogaster fibulata* (Germar, 1831) is an Atlanto-Mediterranean species, which lives on various conifers: *Pinus* (*P. canariensis*, *P. halepensis*, *P. pinea*, *P. sylvestris*), *Cupressus* and *Juniperus* (*J. oxycedrus*, *J. phoenicea*, *J. thurifera*) (Ribes & Gapon 2006). These host plants are predominantly Mediterranean species, but Martin (2020) found it on *planted Pinus mugo*. The species is very variable, so several species were described, but were synonymized by Ribes & Gapon (2006). The size of the species may measure between 4.5 and 8.4 mm (Ribes & Pagola-Carte 2013). The distribution of the species is holomediterranean, with the densest distri-



Fig. 1: Live specimen in Nova Gorica (Photo J. Kamin)



Fig. 2: Mounted specimen (Photo A. Gogala)

bution in the west: Mediterranean France, Spain and Maghreb, but rarer at the east. It is distributed all the way to Iraq.

Janez Kamin found a specimen of *Holcogaster fibulata*, a female, on a light gray facade of a building in his home city of Nova Gorica, at the end of August 2022: Nova Gorica: Ledine, UL99, 45.96315N 45.96315 E, 29. 8. 2022, 1♀, J. Kamin leg., PMSL (kept in Prirodoslovni muzej Slovenije, Slovenian Museum of Natural History).

About 50 m from the building, two pine trees are situated. Closer, at about 20 m, is a *Cedrus deodara* tree. It is not reported as a host plant, but who knows? As usually, he sent a photo and later also the specimen to Andrej Gogala to recognize the species. As I did not have any experience with the species, Attilio Carapezza confirmed its identity. The distribution of the species in the Balkans is known only from the south (Croatia: Dubrovnik, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece (Ribes & Pagola-Carte 2013), Macedonia and Montenegro (Aukema et al. 2019)). So it seems more likely that the species came to Slovenia from Italy, where it is known also from Trentino-Alto Adige as one of the more nearby records.

The distribution of *Holcogaster fibulata* in Europe extends northward, especially at the Atlantic coast. It was found in Belgium in 2017 and in the Netherlands in 2018 and is found there regularly (Aukema et al. 2019). It was first found in western Germany in 2018 as well (Hamers 2018), with several subsequent records suggesting that it is now spreading naturally (Martin 2020, Hoffmann & Herr 2020, Müller 2021, 2022). The first find of the species in Slovenia may point to the spread of the species also more to the east. Nova Gorica is located in the submediterranean region, so we do not know yet if *Holcogaster* can spread also towards Central Europe east of the Alps.

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