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On the Occurrence of the firebug *Pyrrhocoris apterus* (L.) in Northern Europe

SØREN TOLSGAARD

Summary: An unpublished manuscript by LINDGREN (1981) points attention to the fact, that *Pyrrhocoris apterus* was described and several times recorded from SE-Sweden in the 18th and 19th centuries, indicating that the species had small relict populations in this area, even during cold periods.

On the other hand, two full-winged specimens were found in 1969 on the seashore of Sandhammaren by BARANOWSKI, and in 1969-1970 LINDGREN collected 404 adults including 15 full-winged specimens in Sundby on the Danish island Lolland, thus indicating a certain flying ability, even in northern populations.

Moreover, in 1992-1994 TROLLE recorded *P. apterus* for the first time from the Danish island Bornholm, and this occurrence was likely caused by inflight, as other shieldbugs as well crossed the Baltic Sea and were recorded for the first time in Denmark in the warm summer of 1992 (TOLSGAARD 2001).

The conclusion so far – based on the various circumstances of the records from Sandhammaren, Sundby and Bornholm – must be, that the firebug *P. apterus* occasionally colonizes northern areas in Europe by long-distance migration of full-winged specimens.

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