

## New records of *Gardena insignis* Horvth, 1887 (Emesinae, Reduviidae) in Istria (Yugoslavia)

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**ABSTRACT** New records of rarely found assassin bug *Gardena insignis* Horváth in a Slovene and Croatian part of Istria are reported.

**IZVLEČEK** NOVE NAJDBE STENICE *GARDENA INSIGNIS* HORVÁTH, 1887 (EMESINAE, REDUVIIDAE) V ISTRI Avtorji poročajo o novih najdbah stenice vrste *Gardena insignis* (Emesinae, Reduviidae) v slovenskem in hrvaškem delu Istre.

During the 3rd International Meeting on Rhynchota Fauna of Balkan and Adjacent Regions, some participants went on a collecting trip to a Croatian part of Istria. On this occasion one of us, H. Günther, caught one specimen of *Gardena insignis* near Savudrija (Salvore), a rarely found and interesting species of the subfamily Emesinae of Reduviidae. The following day further 7 specimens were recorded by Berend Aukema, Wageningen, at the same place. Together with *Gardena* a similar, but smaller Emesinae, *Metapterus linearis*, occurred in high population density.

*Gardena insignis* is a big, needle-shaped assassin bug, reaching up to 18 mm body-length. It was first described by Geza von HORVÁTH in 1887, who found it near Gorica (Gorizia). We do not know the exact site of the locus classicus of the first record of *Gardena* and we also do not know if it belongs to Yugoslavia or to Italy at present, as Gorica is now divided into an Italian and an Yugoslavian part. *Gardena insignis* was later found in Italy (Friuli-Venezia giulia, Lombardia), Spain (Catalunya) and Israel (see TAMANINI 1962 and DIOLI 1981). Accordingly we can say it is a Mediterranean species.

The day after the meeting was finished, two of us (A. and M. Gogala) decided to look for *Gardena* in places described by Günther and others: In high grass under bushes of *Spartium junceum*, near Savudrija. It was at Zambratija where we succeeded and found two specimens of *Gardena* and a great number of *Metapterus*. We decided to look for them also in the Slovene coastal region. We went to the coast again on September 17, 1990 and looked for them first near Strunjan under *Spartium* in high grass but

without success. The difference between the regions near Zambratija and Strunjan is the nature of the geological substrate. In Zambratija it is limestone, in Strunjan it is Flysch.

So we also went to Stena near Dragonja, an isolated island of limestone in the Slovene part of Istria. We first found several specimens of *Metapterus linearis* and then also one of *Gardena insignis*. This was the first record of *Gardena* in Slovenia since HORVÁTH's signalization.

*Metapterus* was previously recorded near Črni Kal which is also situated in the carstic region. So it seems, that *Gardena insignis* and *Metapterus linearis* live only on calcareous substrate, at least in Istria. We assume this to be true for two other species of Heteroptera found in the same habitat: *Berytinus hirticornis* and *Anaptus major*. But this assumption should be checked in many more Slovenian localities, as *Metapterus* lives on sandy and muddy substrates in Austria (region of the Neusiedler See) and *Berytinus hirticornis* occurs in grass growing on calcareous-free porphyry and devonian schist in south-western parts of Germany.

Table 1. Species of bugs, found in three localities in similar habitats (in high grass, under bushes of *Spartium* etc.) during September 1989.

	Zambratija	Stena, Dragonja	Strunjan
	2. 9. 1989	17. 9. 1989	17. 9. 1989
<i>Gardena insignis</i>	x	x	
<i>Metapterus linearis</i>	x	x	
<i>Berytinus hirticornis</i>	x	x	
<i>Anaptus major</i>	x	x	
<i>Micrelytra fossularum</i>	x		x
<i>Ceraleptus lividus</i>		x	
<i>Ceraleptus gracilicornis</i>			x
<i>Aptus mirmicoides</i>			x
<i>Megalonotus dilatatus</i>			x
<i>Raglius confusus</i>			x
<i>Beosus maritimus</i>		x	x
<i>Nabis pseudoferus</i>			x
<i>Rhinocoris</i> sp. (larvae)			x
<i>Paromius gracilis</i>			x



Fig. 1. *Gardena insignis* Hv., Stena near Dragonja, 17.9.1989

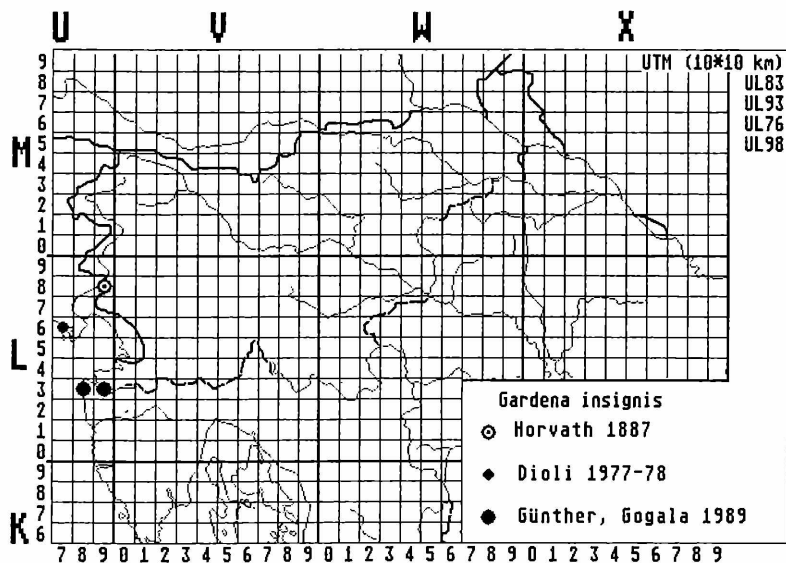


Fig. 2. Localities of *Gardena insignis* in Yugoslavia and Friuli-Venezia Giulia.

## References

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Note added in proof: According to P. V. Putschkov, Fauna Ukraini, Polužestokokrilie, 21, 5: (1987) is *Metapterus linearis* Costa, 1862 from Istria correctly *M. caspicus* (Dohrn, 1863).

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