

NOTA / NOTE

Leptoglossus occidentalis Heidemann, 1910 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini) has reached the Greek island of Crete.

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Abstract: The arrival of *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910 (Heteroptera: Coreidae) on the Greek island of Crete is reported. Additional information on the distribution and the ecology of this species is given.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Coreidae, Coreinae, Anisoscelini, *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, distribution, ecology, Crete, Greece.

Resumen: *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Coreidae: Coreinae: Anisoscelini) ha alcanzado la isla griega de Creta. Se da a conocer la llegada de *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910 (Heteroptera: Coreidae) a la isla griega de Creta. Se aporta también información adicional sobre la distribución y la ecología de esta especie.

Palabras clave: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Coreidae, Coreinae, Anisoscelini, *Leptoglossus occidentalis*, distribución, ecología, Creta, Grecia.

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The genus *Leptoglossus* Guérin-Ménéville, 1831 belongs to the tribe Anisoscelini within the subfamily Coreinae of the Coreidae and contains 62 species (Faúndez *et al.*, 2017).

Leptoglossus occidentalis Heidemann, 1910, commonly known as the Western Conifer Seed Bug, is a highly dispersible Nearctic coreid, which is an invasive alien species in Europe and is well established on the continent (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, 2010; Petrakis, 2011).

Since its first record in Europe in 1999 the species has been reported from Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, France (including the island of Corsica), Germany, Greece (mainland), Hungary, Italy (including the islands of Sardinia and Sicily), Luxembourg, Macedonia, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain (including the Balearic Islands), Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom (including the Channel Islands) (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, 2010; Schneider, 2010; Sciberras & Sciberras, 2010; Fent & Kment, 2011; Petrakis, 2011; Putshkov *et al.*, 2012; Zajac, 2013; Protić & Stanković, 2015; Kulijer, 2016).

Furthermore, *L. occidentalis* has been reported from Japan, China, South Korea, Tunisia and Chile (Fent & Kment, 2011; Putshkov *et al.*, 2012; Ahn *et al.*, 2013; Ben Jamâa *et al.*, 2013; Roques *et al.*, 2016; Faúndez *et al.*, 2017).

The species is univoltine in North America but bivoltine or even polyvoltine in Mexico and maybe bivoltine in parts of Europe, for example in the Mediterranean Region (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, 2010; Fent & Kment, 2011; Petrakis, 2011).

L. occidentalis feeds on young seeds and flowers of a wide range of conifers, mainly pines -*Pinus* sp. (Pinaceae)- and can cause serious damages by reducing seed fertility, for example in pine orchards (Fent & Kment, 2011; Petrakis, 2011; Kulijer, 2016). Nevertheless, severe damages in Europe caused by

L. occidentalis have not been reported, yet (European and Mediterranean Plant Protection Organization, 2010). Furthermore, *L. occidentalis* seems to feed on fruits of pistachio -*Pistacia* sp. (Anacardiaceae)- and maybe almond species of the genus *Amygdalus* (Rosaceae) (Fent & Kment, 2011).

The major transport pathways of *L. occidentalis* are eggs in sawdust, wooden material, seed sources for culturing trees or even whole plant material (Petrakis, 2011). Furthermore, the species flies well (Putshkov *et al.*, 2012) and is obviously capable of reaching islands.

Therefore it is not surprising that *L. occidentalis* has been found on the Greek island of Crete: on 21.08.2015, Steve Daniels was able to photograph a specimen (Fig. 1) in Ferma, in the south-eastern coastal part of the island.

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Fig. 1. - *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heidemann, 1910, Ferma, Crete, Greece, 21.08.2015. (Photograph: Steve Daniels).