

NOTA / NOTE

First record of *Trygonotylus caelestialium* (Kirkaldy, 1902)
(Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Mirinae: Stenodemini)
for Albania.

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Abstract: The first record of *Trygonotylus caelestialium* (Kirkaldy, 1902) (Heteroptera: Miridae) in Albania is reported. Additional information on the distribution and the ecology of this species is given.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Miridae, Mirinae, Stenodemini, *Trygonotylus caelestialium*, distribution, ecology, first record, Albania.

Resumen: Primera cita de *Trygonotylus caelestialium* (Kirkaldy, 1902) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Miridae: Mirinae: Stenodemini) para Albania. Se da a conocer la primera cita de *Trygonotylus caelestialium* (Kirkaldy, 1902) (Heteroptera: Miridae) en Albania. Se aporta también información adicional sobre la distribución y la ecología de esta especie.

Palabras clave: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Miridae, Mirinae, Stenodemini, *Trygonotylus caelestialium*, distribución, ecología, primera cita, Albania.

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The genus *Trygonotylus* Fieber, 1858 belongs to the tribe Stenodemini within the subfamily Mirinae of the Miridae (Hosseini, 2013).

Trygonotylus caelestialium (Kirkaldy, 1902), commonly known as the Rice Leaf Bug, is a Holarctic species (Kerzhner & Josifov, 1999). The first records of the species in Europe were reported from Germany in 1956 (Rieger, 1978). Since then, *T. caelestialium* has been reported for most European countries. Its European distribution reaches from Scandinavia to the Mediterranean Region and from the British Islands to Russia and the Balkan Peninsula (Kerzhner & Josifov, 1999; Aukema *et al.*, 2013).

The species feeds on a variety of plants of the family Poaceae and is known to cause damages on wheat, maize, forage grasses and rice. The first records of *T. caelestialium* on rice in Europe were reported from Italy in 2006. The species is difficult to be seen in the rice crop because of its colour and its quickness (Giudici & Villa, 2007).

T. caelestialium could be confused with the very similar species *Trygonotylus ruficornis* (Geoffroy, 1785), but can be identified and separated by the shaping of the first antennal segment which is largely red with pale longitudinal stripes. These stripes are well defined and contrasting in *T. caelestialium*, while the first antennal segment of *T. ruficornis* is monochrome red or has got much more diffuse stripes (Rieger, 1978; Bantock & Botting, 2013; Hosseini, 2013).

On 22.07.2017, Aleksander Golemaj was able to take a photograph of an imago of *T. caelestialium* in Jalë, near the city of Vlorë in southern Albania (Fig. 1). The photograph is somewhat blurry, but the defined and contrasting stripes on the first antennal segment can be clearly seen.

As *T. caelestialium* has not been reported from Albania in scientific publications yet, the record published in this note is the first one for this country. As *Trygonotylus pulchellus* (Hahn, 1834) and *T. ruficornis* have been reported for Albania before (Kerzhner & Josifov, 1999), currently there are three species of the genus known for this country.

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Fig. 1. - *Trygonotylus caelestialium* (Kirkaldy, 1902), Jalë, Albania, 22.07.2017. (Photograph: Aleksander Golemaj).