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First report of *Belonochilus numenius* (Say, 1832) in Bosnia and Herzegovina (Heteroptera, Lygaeidae)

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Abstract: The invasive Nearctic Heteroptera species *Belonochilus numenius* (Say, 1832) is reported for the first time for Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Belonochilus numenius (Say, 1832), the sycamore seed bug, is an invasive species of Nearctic origin with natural distribution in southern Canada, United States and Mexico (Gessé et al. 2009, Rabitsch 2010). The first European record of *B. numenius* was in Spain (Palma de Mallorca) in July 2008 (Baena & Torres 2012). Later that same year, it was found in Corsica and Languedoc in France (Matocq 2008) and on the Spanish mainland in Barcelona province (Gessé et al. 2009). Since its discovery the species spread rapidly and by 2016 it was already reported from 14 European countries (Protić & Šeat 2016).

B. numenius is a specialist of plane (sycamore) trees – *Platanus* spp. In Europe is mostly found in urban areas on ornamental trees, particularly on the most common London plane, *Platanus* × *acerifolia* (Aiton) Willd. Both adults and nymphs feed on plane seeds and spend most of its life on its fruits (seed balls) (Wheeler 1984).

In the present contribution *B. numenius* is reported from Bosnia and Herzegovina for the first time. The single male was found on the tree trunk of large London plane at app. 15 p.m. on a sunny warm day in Mladen Stojanović Park nearby Banja Luka city center. The specimen was collected by hand, stored in 80% ethanol and deposited in the entomological collections of the National Museum of Bosnia and Herzegovina. At the same tree, two other invasive Heteroptera species were also observed. North American *Corythucha ciliata* (Say, 1832) was numerous, while only few specimens of the western Mediterranean *Oxycarenus lavaterae* (Fabricius, 1787) were found. For *C. ciliata Platanus* spp. are also its preferred host plants. *O. lavaterae* is generally associated with *Tilia* spp. and probably came from some nearby lime tree, as many were present in close vicinity.

Material examined: Banja Luka, Mladen Stojanović Park, N 44.780218°, E 17.200078°, 165 m a.s.l., 06.11.2016, 1 adult, D. Kulijer leg. & det. (Fig. 1).

Species identification was based on work of Gessé et al. (2009) and Péricart (1998). The sycamore seed bug is easy to identify based on external morphology, particularly on the presence of a single spine on profemora (Gessé et al. 2009, Küchler & Strauß 2010). This distinguishes *B. numenius* from similar *Orsillus* species that have three spines.

Considering that sycamore seed bug is spreading fast across Europe and that it was found close to Bosnian border, in Zasavica (Serbia) in 2011, its discovery in Bosnia and Herzegovina was expected (Protić & Šeat 2016). We assume that *B. numenius* is already established and probably more widely present in the country and that the lack of earlier records is a consequence

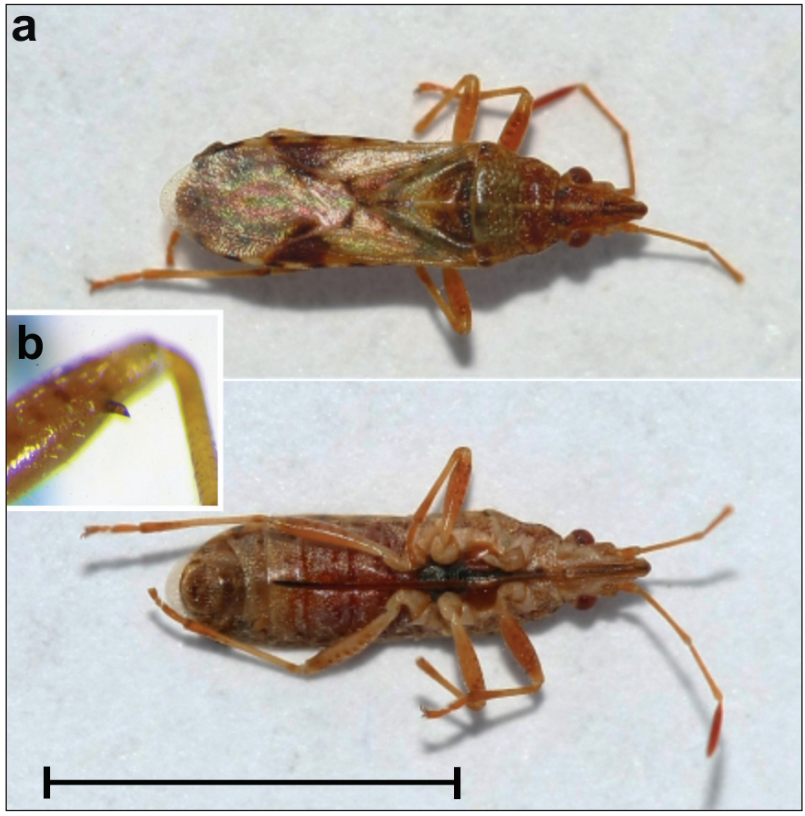

Fig. 1. Male *Belonochilus numenius* (Say, 1832) from Banja Luka:
a = dorsal and ventral view (scale 5 mm), b = detail of the profemora with single spine (photo by D. Kulijer)

of lack of survey. London plane is common horticultural tree in the country, particularly in its continental part and further spreading of the species is expected.

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