

## Notes on the stilt bug genus *Gampsocoris* FUSS, 1852 in Romania (Heteroptera: Berytidae)

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### Abstract

*Gampsocoris enslini* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1953 is proved to be new to the fauna of Romania. The genitalia of the species are figured. Some aspects of the variability of the species are discussed. A remarkable, abnormally coloured specimen of *Gampsocoris culicinus culicinus* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1948 is figured.

**Keywords:** Heteroptera, Berytidae, *Gampsocoris enslini*, new record, fauna of Romania, variability

In July 2003, the author collected a number of true bugs in a trip to Southwestern Romania organized by the Department of Entomology of the Corvinus University of Budapest and the Hungarian Entomological Society. The identification of the material yielded some interesting results, e.g. the first specimens of the lace bug *Hyalochiton komaroffii* (JAKOVLEV, 1880) from Romania (RÉDEI 2003). The present paper reports on the occurrence of *Gampsocoris enslini* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1953, a stilt bug new to the fauna of Romania. A remarkable specimen of *Gampsocoris culicinus culicinus* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1948 with extensive dark pattern on hind lobe of pronotum is also described and figured.

### *Gampsocoris* FUSS, 1852

The stilt bug genus *Gampsocoris* FUSS, 1852 includes 6 species – out of which *G. culicinus* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1948 is represented by 3 subspecies – in Europe. In Romania, only the occurrence of *G. punctipes punctipes* (GERMAR, 1822) and *G. culicinus culicinus* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1948, two widely distributed subspecies, have been proved hitherto (PÉRICART 1984, 2001).

### *Gampsocoris enslini* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1953

General appearance (Fig. 1) resembles to *G. culicinus* and *G. punctipes*. According to the works of SEIDENSTÜCKER (1953) and PÉRICART (1984), the recognition of this species is possible mostly by the following external characters:

(1) Head anteriorly (between bases of antennae) and posteriorly (before level of ocelli) with short longitudinal furrow; supraocular carinae apparent. — In the material in hand, this character is

always correct (Fig. 2m), although usually not easily seen. The supraocular carinae are far less observable than in case of specimens from Bulgaria deposited in the collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM).

(2) The medial tubercles on the hind pronotal lobe well developed, high, its apex more or less pointed. — In the material in hand, this tendency is well observable (Figs 2g–l), but specimens with less developed tubercle (e.g. Fig. 2j, l) are similar in this respect to some specimens of other species of *Gampsocoris*. No specimen having such high, narrow and pointed tubercle as figured by SEIDENSTÜCKER (1953: 166, Fig. 1D) have been collected.

(3) Ventral side of abdomen with a wide medial black stripe reaching hind border of sternite V (♂) or IV (♀), apically bifurcate in females. — In the material examined, interesting variability has been observed in the colour pattern of abdomen of both sexes. Out of the four males (Figs 2a–c), two are typical, but medial stripe is slightly excised at apex similarly to females (Fig. 2a); one has a stripe also extended slightly to the basal part of sternite VI (Fig. 2b); and one, otherwise typical, has extremely developed dark coloration extended to the great part of sternites VI and VII (Fig. 2c). In case of the three females (Figs 2d–f), the medial stripe extends to hind border of sternite V (not IV!); in two specimens, also more or less developed dark spots are present at base of sternites VI and/or VII (Figs 2e, f).

In addition to the characters discussed above, the following character, which can also facilitate the identification, has been observed:

(4) Head, also collar regio, uniformly black (Fig. 2o), or only a small spot between and behind ocelli brownish (Figs 2m, n). — In numerous speci-

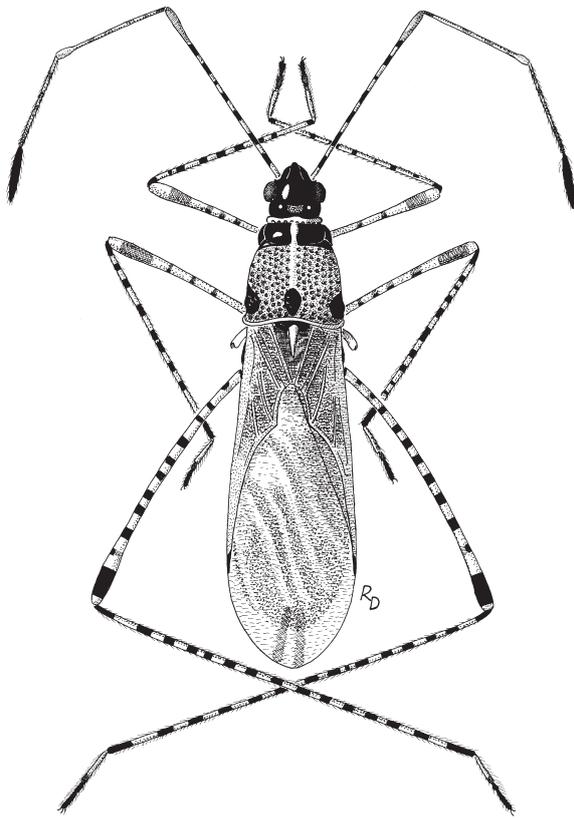


Fig. 1. *Gampsocoris enslini* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1953.

mens of *G. culicinus* and *G. punctipes* deposited in the HNHM and the author's collection, the collar regio of head varies between ochraceous and dark brown (as in Fig. 2p), the darkest specimens also have an extensive brownish dorsal area behind level of ocelli. The reliability of this character should be tested on far greater material of *G. enslini*.

As a summary, it can be established that two important characters – the apparent supraocular carinae and the high and pointed medial pronotal tubercle – are far less developed in the material examined than in specimens from Bulgaria. It is probably due to the fact that the specimens examined represent peripheral populations from the northern border of the distribution area of the species. It should be also mentioned that interesting variability was observed by JOSIFOV (1965) in some characters of *G. punctipes* specimens from peripheries of its area.

Pygophore of male is as in Fig. 2q, caudal conus lacking, two slight protuberances can be observed in the lateral side of the genital aperture. Regarding the shape of parameres, *G. enslini* differs sharply from all European *Gampsocoris*, therefore the parameres can form a solid basis for its recognition. In the material examined, parameres of males are in full accordance with the figures of SEIDENSTÜCKER (1953, 1965): elongated, having a large dor-

sal toothlike projection with four or five bristles and a smaller ventral protuberance, apical process long, slightly curved, asymmetrically bifurcated (Figs 2r–u). The correct identification of males based on genital characters is easy because the characteristic shape of the parameres can easily be observed also in their natural position (Fig. 2q).

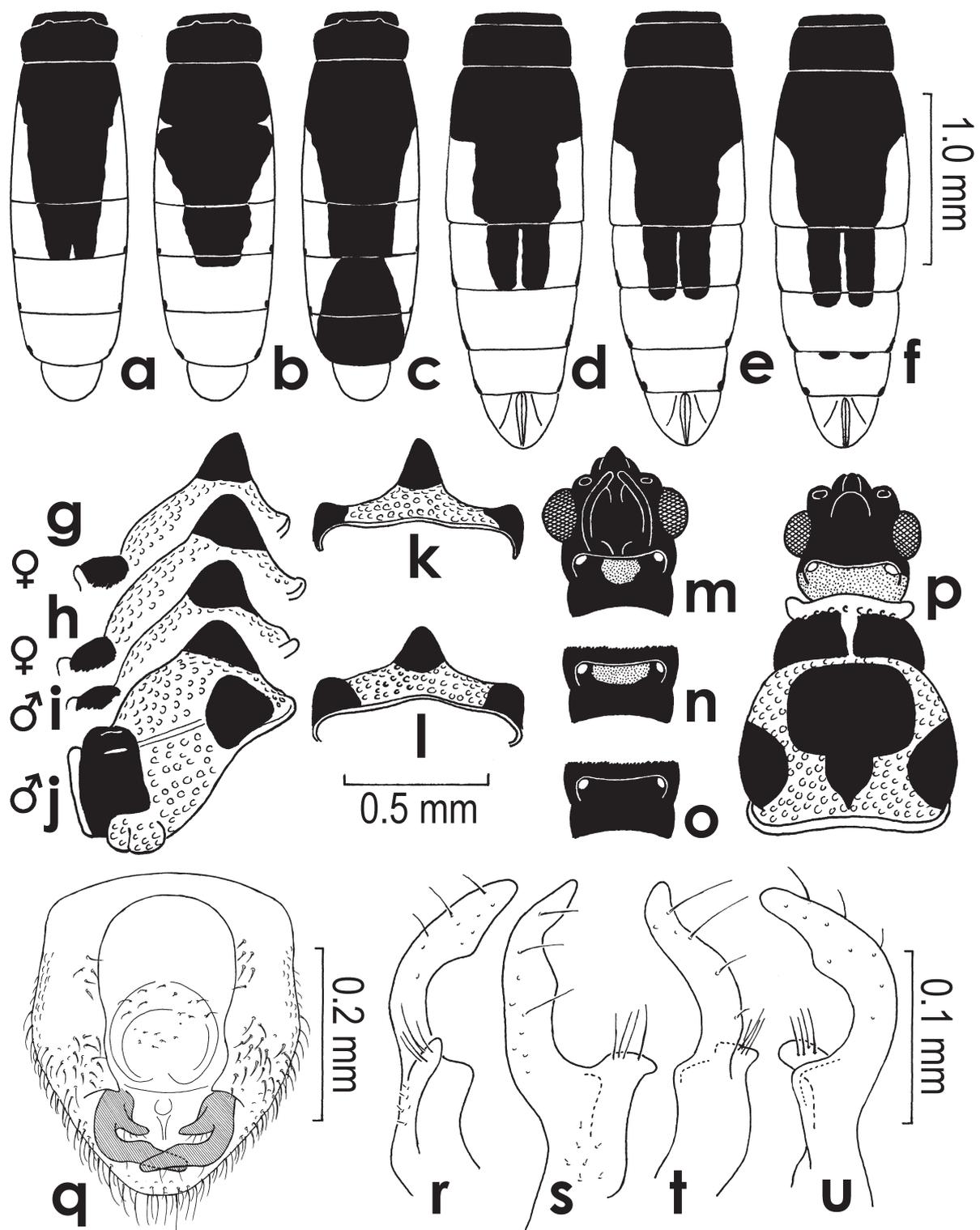
This species, which has a ponto-mediterranean distribution, has been hitherto reported from the Balkan Peninsula (Croatia, Bosnia Hercegovina, „Yugoslavia”, Albania, Bulgaria, Greece), the Asian part of Turkey, the Transcaucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Iran) and even from Yemen (PÉRICART 1984, 2001). Since it had been recorded from many places of the Balkan Peninsula, its occurrence in Romania – in the southern part of the country at first – was expected. Material examined: Romania: Băile Herculane, slope of hill, high-grassy meadow, sweep-netting, 15. VII. 2003 (1 ♀); Băile Herculane, valley of river Cerna, beech wood, undergrowth along stream, sweep-netting, 18. VII. 2003 (1 ♀); near Băile Herculane, road 67D, at km mark 38, high-grassy meadow, sweep-netting, 19. VII. 2003 (2 ♂♂); near Băile Herculane, road 67D, at km mark 36, slope of hill, high-grassy meadow, sweep-netting, 19. VII. 2003 (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀).

The biology of the species is unsatisfactorily known. In Bulgaria, it was observed on *Ononis spinosa* L. (JOSIFOV 1964). In course of the present investigation, it was collected in grassland as well as in woodland communities. Most of the specimens were captured in high-grassy meadows. In both type of habitats, *G. culicinus culicinus* also occurred.

#### ***Gampsocoris culicinus culicinus* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1948**

A remarkable abnormally-coloured female has been examined. In this specimen, the hind pronotal lobe bears a large, wide, subquadrangular black spot posteriorly uniting with the spot of the medial tubercle, posterolaterally approaching the spots of the humeral tubercles. The specimen is otherwise normal. Data of collection: near Băile Herculane, road 67D, at km mark 38, high-grassy meadow, sweep-netting, 19. VII. 2003.

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**Fig. 2.** a–o, q–u: *Gampsocoris enslini* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1953: a–c, abdomen of male, ventral aspect; d–f, abdomen of female, ventral aspect; g–j, pronotum, lateral aspect; k–l, pronotum, seen from behind; m, head, dorsal aspect; n–o, proximal part of head, dorsal aspect; q, genital capsule, dorsal aspect; r–u, left paramere from different orientations; — p: *Gampsocoris culicinus culicinus* SEIDENSTÜCKER, 1948, head and pronotum of an abnormally coloured female, dorsal aspect.

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