

Communicatio Brevis

A water strider species new to the fauna of Afghanistan,  
*Gerris asper* (Fieber, 1860) (Heteroptera: Gerromorpha)

By

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**Abstract.** Two *Gerris* species (Heteroptera, Gerromorpha, Gerridae) are recorded from Afghanistan, one of which, *Gerris asper* (Fieber, 1860), is new to the country.

During a zoological expedition in Afghanistan in 1974, Dr. L. Papp collected numerous bug species from wetlands. The material has been deposited in the Heteroptera Collection of the Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest. The following two species belonging to the family Gerridae have been identified:

*Gerris* (*Gerriselloides*) *asper* (Fieber, 1860): one adult female, with long wings.

*Gerris* (*Gerris*) *thoracicus* Schummel, 1832: two adult males, with long wings.

All the three specimens may be characterized by the same collecting parameters: Paghman River, Prov. Kabul, Afghanistan, 16 km west from Kabul, 1850 m above sea-level, 05. 10. 1974, coll.: L. Papp, No. 90.

On the basis of the „Catalogue of the Heteroptera of the Palaearctic Region” (Aukema and Rieger, 1995), *Gerris asper* proved to be new to the fauna of Afghanistan. This species was known hitherto from South and Central Europe, the Middle East and North Africa. In Asia it was found in Israel and Syria, furthermore there was a dubious detection in Turkey. Its recent occurrence in Afghanistan is the most remote one in the East so far.

Distribution of *Gerris asper*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Macedonia,

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Morocco, Poland, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Switzerland, Syria, Turkey, Ukraine, Yugoslavia.

Regarding its size and colour, *Gerris asper* is very similar to *Gerris (Gerriselloides) lateralis* Schummel, 1832 (the latter one is well known from Afghanistan), however, the shape of the apophysis of the abdominal connexivum and the orientation of the female's last sternit are markedly different (Andersen, 1994; Schuster, 1983; Wagner and Zimmermann, 1955). The larvae of *G. asper* were described by Hufnagel and Vásárhelyi (1999).

*Gerris thoracicus* is a widespread and frequent species in both the Palearctic and the Oriental Region.

Distribution of *G. thoracicus*: Afghanistan, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canary Isles, Croatia, Czech Republic, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Great Britain, Germany, Georgia, Greece, Hungary, India, Iran, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Macedonian, Madeira, Moldavia, Morocco, The Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Syria, Tadjikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Yugoslavia.

Species names are given according to Aukema and Rieger (1995). Identifications were based on the papers of Hedicke (1938), Benedek (1969) and Savage (1989).

**Acknowledgements.** The author thanks Prof. László Papp (Budapest) for collecting the specimens.

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