

**First Hungarian occurrence of  
*Sigara (Microsigara) hellensii* (C. R. Sahlberg, 1819)  
(Heteroptera: Corixidae)**

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**Abstract** – *Sigara hellensii* (C. R. SAHLBERG, 1819) was found at Körmend and Kám (Western Hungary, Vas county). These are the first records of the species in Hungary. With three figures.

**Key words** – Heteroptera, Corixidae, *Sigara hellensii*, new records, Hungary.

Previously only nine species of the genus *Sigara* (FABRICIUS, 1775) were recorded from Hungary (KONDOROSY 1999).

In connection with a habitat rehabilitation project, we carried out a detailed quantitative survey on the Csörnök-Herpenyo watercourse. The samplings have yielded two specimens (one male and one female) of *Sigara hellensii* (C. R. SAHLBERG, 1819). These turned out to be the first record of this species in Hungary.

The female was collected in the administrative area of Körmend (Vas county, Hungary) (WGS84 geo-coordinates: 46°59'40" N, 16°37'28" E; UTM-grid: XN20), while the male was found in the administrative area of Kám (Vas county, Hungary) (WGS84 geo-coordinates: 47°06'35" N, 16°52'16" E, UTM-grid: XN41). Both specimens were captured on 21th April 2009 by TAMÁS ZSÓLYOMI. Both specimens are deposited in the Heteroptera Collection of the Hungarian Natural history Museum, Budapest.

The most important morphological diagnostic trait of *S. hellensii* (Figs 1, 2) is a median longitudinal yellow line on the pronotum (Fig. 3), which divides the 5–6 pronotal stripes. This is the only species in Europe having such colour pattern. The body length does not exceed 5 mm (JANSSON 1986). The distal series of palar pegs contains 14–17, the proximal one 11–15 pegs. The strigil is situated on the right side, it is oval and formed by four solid stripes (POISSON 1957, SOÓS 1963).



**Figs 1–3.** *Sigara hellensii* (C. R. SAHLBERG, 1819): 1 = habitus of male in dorsal view, 2 = habitus of female in dorsal view, 3 = head and pronotum of female

*S. hellensii* is present in Fennoscandia and in most of the countries from Western Europe to Western Russia (JANSSON 1986). AUKEMA (1995) summarized its distribution, and reported it from the following countries: Austria, Belgium, Byelorussia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Russia (Central and North European Territory), Sweden, Switzerland and Ukraine. Its southernmost occurrence is in Slovenia (GOGALA 2003).

Some other aquatic and semiaquatic hemipteran species collected together with *S. hellensii* were *Aquarius najas* (DE GEER, 1773), *Gerris lacustris* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Gerris odontogaster* (ZETTERSTEDT, 1828), *Hesperocorixa linnaei* (FIEBER, 1848), *Nepa cinerea* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Ranatra linearis* (LINNAEUS, 1758), *Sigara falleni* (FIEBER, 1848) and *Velia caprai caprai* (TAMANINI, 1947).

In the identification book by SOÓS (1963) *S. hellensii* was mentioned in brackets, indicating that it was expected to occur in Hungary. Now, based on our record, the brackets can be removed.

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