

First record of *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) for Switzerland

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ABSTRACT: The first record of the Nearctic assassin bug species *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae: Harpactorini) for Switzerland is reported. The European distribution of the species is discussed.

KEYWORDS: *Zelus renardii*, invasive species, first record, distribution, Switzerland, Europe.

The leafhopper assassin bug *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae: Harpactorini) is an invasive Nearctic species which established stable populations in various countries of the Mediterranean Region (Kment & van der Heyden, 2022).

Germany (van der Heyden, 2021a, 2021b, 2023). Apparently introduced specimens were reported also from other countries: Belarus, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Great Britain, the Netherlands (van der Heyden, 2021a, 2021b; Kment & van der Heyden, 2022; Lukashuk et al. 2022; Claerebout & Lock, 2023; Aukema & Schets, 2024).

Taking the recent spread of *Z. renardii* into account, the first observation of the species in Switzerland has been expected. Now, the first record of *Z. renardii* in the country can be reported:

To cite this article: van der Heyden, T., 2024, First record of *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) for Switzerland, *J.Het.Turk.*, 6(2):120-121

DOI:10.5281/zenodo.13926811

To link to this article: <https://www.j-ht.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/V62-A2.pdf>

Received: Aug 21, 2024; **Revised:** Sep 13, 2024; **Accepted:** Sep 14, 2024; **Published online:** Nov 30, 2024



On 03.08.2024, an adult specimen (Fig. 1) was found and photographed in the Botanical Garden of the University of Zurich (Nadja Baumgartner, pers. comm.). Two related photos were uploaded to the online database iNaturalist (Baumgartner, 2024).



Figure 1. Specimen of *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857, Zurich, Switzerland, 03.08.2024. (Photo: Nadja Baumgartner).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I like to thank Nadja Baumgartner for allowing me to use her photo of *Z. renardii* to illustrate this note and for additional information about her finding.

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