

The Cryptic Leatherbug *Bathysolen nubilus* (Fallén, 1807) (Hemiptera, Coreidae) in Norway

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The Cryptic Leatherbug *Bathysolen nubilus* (Fallén, 1807) (Hemiptera, Coreidae) was recorded in Norway for the first time. One male was captured crawling along the balcony of the house of the senior author at Birkenes in Aust Agder (AAI) 2019. A brief account of the record is given, together with a short review on the identification, biology and distribution of the species.

Key words: Hemiptera, Coreidae, Pseudophloeinae, Pseudophloeini, squash-bugs, leaf-footed bugs, *Bathysolen nubilus*, new record, Norway.

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Introduction

The squash-bugs or leaf-footed bugs (Coreidae) represent a small family of true bugs (Heteroptera) in Norway, consisting so far of only six species, with the rapidly expanding *Leptoglossus occidentalis* Heideman, 1910 as the latest addition (Artsdatabanken 2019, Endrestøl & Hveding 2017). The Norwegian species are coloured in shades of brown or red-brown and so resemble withered leaves. Worldwide, the family consists of nearly 2,000 described species including many huge and spectacular species (Dolling 1991, Fogh Nielsen & Skipper 2015).

This paper deals with the first Norwegian record of the Cryptic Leatherbug *Bathysolen nubilus*, which brings the number of Norwegian Coreidae species to seven.

The record

One single ♂ was found crawling along the balcony of the house of the senior author in Aust-

Agder [AAI] Birkenes: Birkeland, Nordåsen [58.333359°N 8.240061°E ±2m, 88m asl] 16 May 2019 leg. Svein Svendsen. The specimen (Figure 1) has been deposited in the private collection of the senior author. Even though this is a residential area, there are forest patches with many different tree species nearby, and a variety of meadows. The nearest meadow (Figure 2) is dominated by *Pilosella aurantiaca* (L.) and *Leucanthemum vulgare* Lam., 1779, but for presumably food plants both *Trifolium pratense* L. and *T. repens* L. also grow abundantly there.

Identification, biology and distribution

Bathysolen nubilus is characterized by a short and quite broad pronotum, with pale sides, but without spines (Figure 1). The scutellum has an easily recognizable pale or almost white tip. First antennal segment is rather broad, and slightly broader than the fourth. The length varies from 5.5 to 7.0 mm (Fogh Nielsen & Skipper 2015, Botting & Bantock 2019).



FIGURE 1. *Bathysolen nubilus* ♂ imago from Nordåsen, Birkeland. Photo: Svein Svendsen. [Equipment: Canon 7D, macro lens MP-E 65mm; manual focusing; stacking with the program Helicon focus, 12–13 layers; further processing in the shareware program Gimp 2].



FIGURE 2. The locality at Nordåsen, Birkeland. Photo: Svein Svendsen.

This is a ground dwelling bug feeding on different species in the pea family (Fabaceae), and it prefers dry and sparsely vegetated habitats. *Medicago lupulina* L. is mentioned as food plant from England (Botting & Bantock 2019), while Fogh Nielsen & Skipper (2015) stress that *Trifolium*, *Medicago* and *Viciae* are preferred in Denmark. The adult hibernates, and in England it may be found almost throughout the year. However, in Denmark and Sweden it may be hidden during the coldest winter months, but may appear early in the spring (Fogh Nielsen & Skipper 2015, Botting & Bantock 2019) and the nymphs can be found during the summer, from June to August. The bug seems quite scarce in Denmark and Sweden, but may have become more abundant in England recently (Fogh Nielsen & Skipper 2015, Botting & Bantock 2019).

B. nubilus is recorded from most countries in Europe including Sweden, Denmark and Finland

(Fogh Nielsen & Skipper 2015, Albrecht *et al.* 2015, Aukema 2019). It is further reported from Turkey and the Middle East, and eastwards to the Republic of Buryatia, east of Lake Baikal (Botting & Bantock 2019, Sofronova 2017).

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