

NATURAL HISTORY AND OBSERVATIONS

***Rhyparochromus vulgaris* (Schilling) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Rhyparochromidae): newly discovered in the interior of British Columbia**G. G. E. SCUDDER¹

The Palaearctic seed bug *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* (Schilling) was first reported from Oregon and Washington in North America by Henry (2004). The species is here reported for the first time in the interior of British Columbia (B.C.).

In early 2015, Mike Art observed many specimens in a woodshed in Creston, B.C. Through the cooperation of Ward Strong, Arthur Stock and Karen Needham, Kristine Saceniaks collected a series of specimens for me on 1 May 2015, at Creston, Goat River, 851 Aldich Road 49.075986°N 116.517452°W (UTM 11 -0535241E x 5436015W) at an elevation of 546 metres. Using the keys and description in Péricart (1998) and comparison with specimens from several localities in Europe, I confirmed that the species was *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* (Schilling) (Fig. 1). The sample received contained nineteen males and four females of *Rhyparochromus vulgaris*, plus two males of *Arhyssus scutatus* (Stål) (Rhopalidae). This is the first record of *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* from the interior of British Columbia. However, previous to this, Dr. M. D. Schwartz (Ottawa) had identified three males and six females of *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* for the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) that had been collected at a commercial nursery near Langley, B.C., on 28 February 2013. These were discovered in an outdoor covered storage area near boxes of supplies. These specimens are deposited in the Canadian National Collection of Insects (CNC). The Creston specimens have been deposited in the CNC, Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM), University of British Columbia (UBC), and my own collection.

According to Péricart (1998), *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* occurs naturally throughout Europe and the Mediterranean region, from Belgium, Germany and Russia in the north around the 55th parallel, to Asia Minor in the south. Péricart (1998) had no records for the British Isles.



Figure 1. *Rhyparochromus vulgaris* (Schilling). B.C. specimen, male, dorsal view. Length 6.75 mm.

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REFERENCES

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