

OCURRENCE AND ECOLOGY OF GNATHONCUS NIDORUM
STOCKMANN, 1957 (COLEOPTERA, HISTERIDAE)
IN SLOVAKIA

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The species *Gnathoncus nidorum* was found for the first time in Slovakia and in whole Czechoslovakia. Its occurrence in the nests of *Passer domesticus* and *Passer montanus* was registered for the first time.

Key words: *Histeridae*, birds' nests, ecology, faunistics, Slovakia.

The genus *Gnathoncus* Jacquelin du Val, 1858 includes approximately 10 species in the palaeartic fauna. The enormous morphological uniformity of them and the strong specialization on the hidden mode of life in birds' nests were the reasons of their taxonomically unclear position and, consequently, of many confusions in the knowledge of their geographical distribution and ecology. Only Stockmann (1957) has found the reliable identification characters at least in the males of the European species. Besides it he has described a new species *Gnathoncus nidorum* Stockmann, 1957 (locus typicus: Finland). Since that time, *G. nidorum* was found sporadically in Sweden, Bavaria, Austria, Corsica, Sardinia and Poland (Kryzhanovskij, Reikhardt, 1976; Mazur, 1973, 1981, 1984; Mazur, Kaszab, 1980). It was found in the nests of *Corvus monedula* (L.), *Sturnus vulgaris* (L.) and *Strix aluco* (L.), (Hicks 1959, 1962, 1971), usually in the nests situated in the high trees. Witzgall (1971) considers *G. nidorum* to be the rarest species of the genus *Gnathoncus*.

In course of the extensive research program on the fauna in birds' nests carried out in South-West Slovakia during the years 1982—1988 [altogether 833 birds' nests collected], we have found four males of *G. nidorum*. One male was found in the nest of *Passer domesticus* (Jahodná, 19. 10. 1982), one male in the nest of *Sturnus vulgaris* occupied secondarily by *Passer domesticus* (Jahodná, 19. 10. 1982) and two males were found in the nests of *Passer montanus* (Bratislava—Líštiny, 23. 6. 1983, all specimens lgt. Krištofík, coll. Šustek).

The nests in Jahodná (square 7279 DFS) were in nesting boxes in a grove of willows, poplars and alders around a *phragmitetum*. This *phragmitetum*

surrounded a small depression in the fields approximately in the distance of 3.5 km to the north west from the village. The nests in Bratislava-Lištiny (square 6878 DFS) were in nesting boxes placed in the oak forest Sitina in the western part of Bratislava. This forest arized secondarily on the place of former vineyards approximately 150 years ago. *G. nidorum* occurred in the nests together with the rare species *Gnathoncus schmidti* Reitter, 1894 and with the frequent species, typical of the birds' nests, *Gnathoncus buyssoni* Auzat, 1883.

All four findings show that *G. nidorum* can occur in nests in rather different habitats and in nests of a wider spectrum of hosts. In the nests of *Passer domesticus* (L.) and *Passer montanus* (L.), *G. nidorum* was found for the first time. The distance between both localities and the findings dates indicate, that *G. nidorum* is distributed probably regularly in whole South Slovakia and that it occurs in the nests over the whole year. *G. nidorum* is a new species for the fauna of Slovakia and Czechoslovakia.

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VÝSKYT A EKOLÓGIA GNATHONCUS NIDORUM STOCKMANN, 1957 NA SLOVENSKU

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Výskyt druhu *Gnathoncus nidorum* sa zistil prvý raz na Slovensku a v Československu. Po prvý raz tento druh našli v hniezdach vrabca domáceho [*Passer domesticus*] a vrabca poľného [*Passer montanus*].

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ВСТРЕЧАЕМОСТЬ И ЭКОЛОГИЯ GNATHONCUS NIDORUM STOCKMANN, 1957
В СЛОВАКИИ (SLOVENSKO)

Збышек Шустек, Ян Криштофик

Встречаемость вида *Gnathoncus nidorum* была впервые обнаружена на территории Словакии и в Чехословакии. Первый раз был этот вид найден в гнездах воробья домашнего (*Passer domesticus*) и воробья полевого (*Passer montanus*).