

The backswimmer *Notonecta glauca* L. (Hemiptera, Notonectidae) in Central Norway

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In Central Norway, the backswimmer *Notonecta glauca* L., 1758 occurs on the northern margin of its distribution area. The species has recently dispersed northwards, both naturally along the west coast and inland from an introduced population in Trondheim. The history of *N. glauca* records in the Trondheim district is presented in detail, and new records from Central Norway and some habitat characteristics are given. In the next few decades, we expect the species to become more widely distributed and abundant in Central Norway and northwards.

Key words: Hemiptera, *Notonecta glauca*, distribution, Central Norway

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Introduction

Three species of backswimmer, *Notonecta glauca* L., 1758, *N. lutea* Müller, 1776 and *N. reuteri* Hungerford, 1928, have been recorded in Norway. *N. glauca* and *N. lutea* are present in Southern, Southeastern, Southwestern and Central Norway (Olsvik 1981, Dolmen 1996, Coulianos et al. 2008), and the latter also extends into the southern part of Northern Norway (Dolmen & Aagaard 1973). *N. glauca* usually occurs in lowland localities with rich aquatic vegetation, while *N. lutea* is mostly found in dystrophic ponds or lakelets with scarce aquatic vegetation, but also sometimes in eutrophic ponds and small lakes in agricultural land (Dolmen 1991, Coulianos et al. 2008). The third species, *N. reuteri*, has been recorded in a few eutrophic ponds and forest or

bog ponds or lakelets with little vegetation, apart from *Sphagnum* mosses, in the southeastern part of the country (Dolmen 1989a). *N. lutea* and *N. reuteri* have fairly similar life cycles and hibernate in the egg stage, whereas *N. glauca* hibernates in the imago stage.

The imago of *N. glauca* is easily distinguished from that of *N. lutea* by its black scutellum, while *N. lutea* has a light-coloured scutellum (Figure 1). *N. reuteri* also has a light scutellum, but is chiefly distinguished from *N. lutea* by the male copulatory organ or the last abdominal sternum of the female (Jansson 1996).

N. glauca in Central Norway

The first records of *N. glauca* in Central Norway,