

The stilt bugs (Heteroptera, Berytidae) of Norway

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We here present confirmed records of the six species of stilt bugs (Berytidae) occurring in Norway. *Berytinus clavipes* (Fabricius, 1775) is reported for the first time from Norway. Several new county records for the other species of Berytidae are also presented. All species are illustrated with pictures of specimens from Norway. The reported records of *Berytinus affinis* in Warloe (1925) have for a long time led to confusion about which species of *Berytinus* Kirkaldy, 1900 being present in Norway. Here, we show that these specimens actually belong to the common *B. minor* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1835). We conclude that it is not likely that more than these six species of Berytidae are to be found in Norway in the future.

Key words: Hemiptera, Heteroptera, Berytidae, Norway.

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Introduction

The stilt bugs (Berytidae) represent a small family of true bugs with 155 species and 45 genera in the Palearctic region (Aukema & Rieger 2001) Only eight of these species are present in Scandinavia (Coulianos & Ossianilsson 1976). Despite a fairly large body size, they are relatively rare in collections. This is probably related to their rather sluggish behavior, cryptic appearance, and the fact that they are found mostly on ground among roots and debris. Although the risk of overlooking stilt bugs is high, there is no doubt that many species also have a rather restricted distribution.

Stilt bugs are characterized by the very slender body which is brownish yellow in color. The antennae and legs are also extremely long and slender. The first antennal segment and the femur are more or less extended towards apex. The eyes are rather small and widely separated from pronotum. The head has a characteristic extension in front between the basis of the antennae. The membrane of the fore wings has five veins which can be hard to see in sub-brachyptere individuals.

Very little is known about the biology

of Berytidae, but most species seem to be phytophagous and tied to various plant families. While *Metatropis rufescens* is found in broad leaved forests, all the other species seem to be restricted to xerophilic dry meadows. The *Berytinus* species are normally associated with Fabaceae. However, *B. crassipes* (Herrich-Schaeffer 1835) is found on different species of Caryophyllaceae, which seems to be the case also for *Neides tipularius* (L., 1758). *Metatropis rufescens* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1835) is associated with *Circaea* spp. (Pericart 1984). All the Scandinavian stilt bugs can be identified by for instance by keys in Pericart (1984) or Wagner (1964).

In the latest catalogue of Norwegian true bugs (Coulianos 1998) confirmed records exist for four species of Berytidae from Norway: *Berytinus minor* (Herrich-Schaeffer, 1835), *B. signoreti* (Fieber, 1859), *Neides tipularius* and *Metatropis rufescens*. Ødegaard (1998) published the same year a fifth species, *B. crassipes*. Here, we present an updated list of all the Norwegian species including the first Norwegian records of *B. clavipes* (Fabricius, 1775) and several new regional records.