

Short communication

**HYALOCHITON KOMAROFFII (JAKOVLEV) (HETEROPTERA: TINGIDAE)  
FIRST RECORD IN SERBIA**

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The genus *Hyalochiton* Horváth 1905, comprises four species, all of which occur in the West Palaearctic: *H. colpochilus* (Horváth, 1897), *H. komaroffii* (Jakovlev, 1880), *H. multiseriatus* (Reuter, 1888) and *H. syrmensis* (Horváth, 1897) (Péricart, 1983; Péricart & Golub, 1996; Aukema *et al.*, 2013). The only species previously recorded in Serbia is *Hyalochiton syrmensis* (Horváth, 1897), which was described from "Urdnik en Syrmia", i.e. the Urdnik Mts. [now Fruška Gora Mts.] in the historical region of Syrmium (Horváth 1897, 1906; Protić 1998, 2004). The distribution of *H. komaroffii* on the Balkan Peninsula includes Bosnia and Herzegovina (Horváth, 1906), Croatia (Novak & Wagner, 1955), Bulgaria (Josifov, 1969), Macedonia (Göllner- Scheiding, 1978), Greece (Péricart, 1983), Romania (Rédei, 2002) and Slovenia (Kunz & Frieß, 2009).

*Hyalochiton komaroffii* (Fig. 1) is a new species for the fauna of Serbia. The first record of the species in Serbia comes from the Ibarska Klisura gorge, on the southwestern slopes of Mt. Stolovi (1375 m above sea level). The locality where specimens were collected (Fig. 2) is situated about 20 km south of the town of Kraljevo, on serpentine substrate, at the foot of the medieval fortress Maglič (43° 36' 46.19" N and 20° 33' 03.31" E). The heteropterans were collected on July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2017, on a transect leading from the base to the top of fortress hill, at altitudes varying from 259 to 329 m a.s.l. Specimens collected from the aerial parts of *Teucrium montanum* L. included: 5 macropterous (1 ♂, 4 ♀♀,) and 23 brachypterous (8 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀) individuals, in total 28 specimens. *Hyalochiton komaroffii* larvae were recorded and collected from *T. montanum* L. in very high abundance.

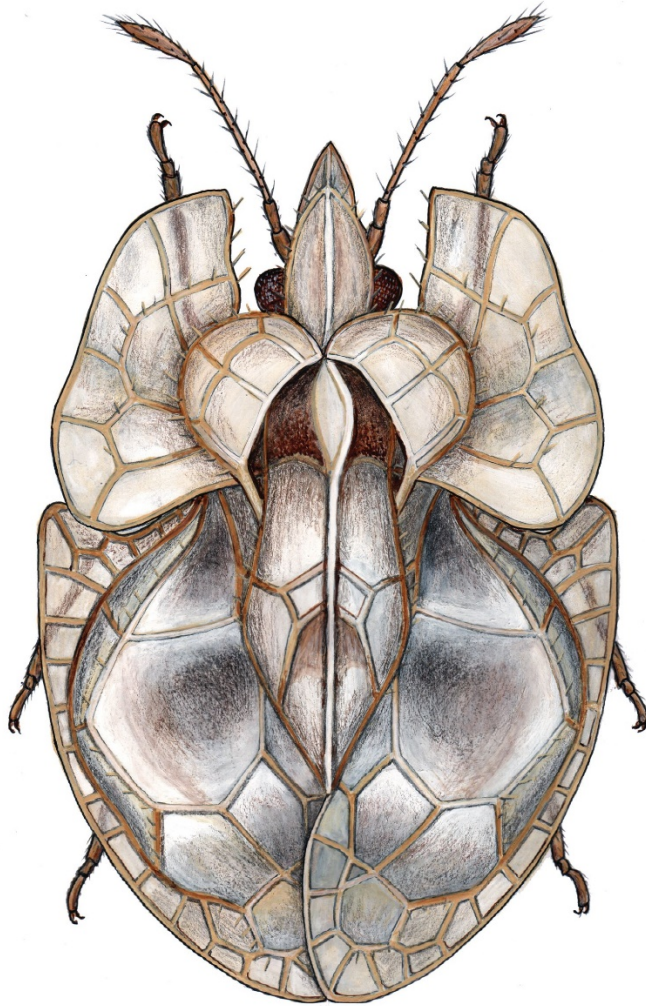


Figure 1. *Hyalochiton komaroffii* (Jakovlev, 1880) ♀, brachypterous individual (Drawing by: Aleksandar Stojanović)

The habitat inhabited by *T. montanum* includes dry meadows on serpentine cliffs. The site where *H. komaroffii* was recorded is under strong anthropogenic influence, as the cliff is traversed by a relatively new undulating stony path lined with rocks. *Teucrium montanum* forms a large population along the stony wall resembling flowerbeds, as well as along the entire steep, almost bare surface. The path leads to the archaeological locality of the medieval fortress Maglič at the top of the hill. Attempts to find this species in similar neighboring habitats yielded no specimens despite the presence of *T. montanum*, probably due to the unusually severe drought this year (2017).

The collected specimens are small (macropterous ♀♀ 2.9-3.0 mm, brachypterous ♀♀ 2.2-2.3 mm; macropterous ♂♂ 2.8 mm, brachypterous ♂♂ 2.1-2.2 mm), barely mobile or noticeable, but their presence is indicated by conspicuous white spots on the leaves of *T. montanum*. The photograph (Fig. 3) shows both the flower galls of *Copium teucris teucris* (Host, 1788) and the white spots caused by *H. komaroffii* feeding on the *T. montanum* leaves.

*Hyalochiton komaroffii* individuals are grouped on the abaxial side of the leaves and inside the terminal inflorescences of *T. montanum*. They are hidden among the dense epidermal hairs. During their feeding, they cause characteristic damage in the form of prominent, round white (chlorotic) spots. The spots may merge. The later stages are characterized by tissue necrosis and the appearance of ochre-brown spots that may be round or irregular in shape due to merging. Therefore, this tingid may have economic importance as a pest species on *T. montanum*, which is collected for medicinal purposes, decreasing both the yield and the medicinal properties.

At the same locality as *H. komaroffii*, flower-bud galls of *Copium teucris teucris* were collected from *T. montanum*, containing 12 specimens (5 ♂♂ and 7 ♀♀). Only a few galls contained grown larvae, while more than 85% were empty, with visible exit holes. Each occupied gall contained only one imago or larva of *C. teucris teucris*. The Ibarska Klisura gorge with its medieval fortress Maglič is only the fourth locality in Serbia where *C. teucris teucris* has been recorded. The previous three localities are the Jelašnička Klisura gorge, Beljanica and Divčibare (Protić, 2005, 2011).

The collected specimens are stored at the Natural History Museum in Belgrade within the Study Collection of Heteroptera.



Figure 2. Habitat of *Hyalochiton komaroffii* (Jakovlev), Ibarska Klisura: slope below the medieval fortress Maglič (photo by Miroslav Jovanović).



Figure 3. *Teucrium montanum* L. – white spots on leaves, caused by feeding of *Hyalochiton komaroffii*, and flower bud galls caused by *Copium teucris teucris* (photo by Aleksandar Stojanović).

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## *HYALOCHITON KOMAROFFII* (JAKOVLEV) (HETEROPTERA: TINGIDAE) ПРВИ НАЛАЗ У СРБИЈИ

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### Извод

*Hyalochiton komaroffii* (Jakovlev, 1880) је нова врста за фауну Србије. Први пут је нађена у Ибарској клисури, на локалитету који се налази 20 км јужно од Краљева, на серпентинској подлози у подножју средњовековног утврђења Маглич. Сакупљено је 28 примерака са надземних делова *Teucrium montanum* L.

Примерци *H. komaroffii* налазе се на наличју листова и унутар цвасти *T. montanum*. Сакривени су у густим епидермалним длачицама. Проузрокују стварање најпре белих пега, које потом долази до некрозе ткива и појаве окер-смеђих пега.

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