

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

Stink Bugs on Soybean in Northeastern Brazil and a New Record on the Southern Green Stink Bug, *Nezara viridula* (L.) (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)

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*Embrapa, Centro Nacional de Pesquisa de Soja, C. postal 231, 86001-970, Londrina, PR**Neotropical Entomology 31(2): 331-332 (2002)*Percevejos em Soja no Nordeste Brasileiro e um Novo Registro do Percevejo Verde, *Nezara viridula* (L.) (Heteroptera: Pentatomidae)

RESUMO – Durante os meses de março e abril de 2001, conduziram-se levantamentos da população de percevejos pentatomídeos em soja [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] no Nordeste brasileiro (Balsas – Maranhão – latitude 7°31'S e longitude 46°02'W). A maioria (82,4%) dos percevejos fitófagos coletados foi da espécie *Euschistus heros* (F.). Outras seis espécies de percevejos foram coletadas em número menor (<5,0%). Dentre elas, coletou-se pela primeira vez na região a espécie exótica, *Nezara viridula* (L.), caracterizando um novo registro e ampliando a sua distribuição na Região Neotropical.

PALAVRAS-CHAVE: Insecta, *Glycine max*, Região Neotropical.

ABSTRACT – During March-April 2001, a survey of pentatomids associated with soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] was conducted at northeastern Brazil (Balsas County – Maranhão State - latitude 7°31'S, longitude 46°02'W). The majority of the phytophagous bugs (82.4%) belonged to the species *Euschistus heros* (F.). Other six species of bugs were collected in much lower numbers (<5.0%). Among them, the exotic species, *Nezara viridula* (L.), was intercepted in this area for the first time, expanding its distribution in the Neotropical Region.

KEY WORDS: Insecta, *Glycine max*, Neotropical Region.

Soybean [*Glycine max* (L.) Merrill] is a very important crop in Brazil. It has been expanding since its introduction in the south ca. 40 years ago, to the Central-West regions of the country. Recently, the crop has expanded toward the northeast (Hasse 1996). Similar to the other states, in Maranhão this legume increased dramatically in the region of Balsas County (latitude 7°31'S, longitude 46°02'W), with an estimated production of 600,000 ton in the 2000/2001 season (D. Klepker, personal communication).

During March and April 2001, field trips were made in the Balsas area, and stink bugs (Pentatomidae) were collected from soybean. The bugs were captured using a sweep net and by hand-picking. Insects were put in killing jars, sorted and pinned in the laboratory of the Embrapa Unit in Balsas. The bugs were taken to Londrina, in Paraná state, and deposited in the Insect Collection of the National Soybean Research Center of Embrapa.

Of the total of 108 specimens of bugs collected, seven species were identified. By far, the most abundant species was the neotropical brown stink bug, *Euschistus heros* (F.), comprising 82.4% (89) of the total. The other species were:

Thyanta perditor (F.) 4.6% (5); *Acrosternum impicticorne* (Stal) 3.7% (4); *A. ubicum* Rolston 0.9% (1); *Piezodorus guildinii* (Westwood) 3.7% (4); *Nezara viridula* (L.) 3.7% (4); and *Edessa meditabunda* (F.) 0.9% (1).

Of all species collected the only exotic one, native from the Ethiopian Region (Hokkanen 1986), is the southern green stink bug, *N. viridula*. This bug has a worldwide distribution (DeWitt & Godfrey 1972, Todd & Herzog 1980, Todd 1989). Of the previous records on its geographical distribution in the Neotropical Region, the area where the bug was intercepted (Maranhão State) is not included. Therefore, with this new record, its distributional range is expanded. Apparently, because soybean is a preferred host plant of *N. viridula*, the bug is following the expansion of the crop to new areas. Despite being more adapted to the cooler areas of southern Brazil (Panizzi & Corrêa-Ferreira 1997), *N. viridula* is expanding its distribution to more tropical regions. However, the data show that the native brown stink bug, *E. heros*, once rare on soybean (Panizzi *et al.* 1977), among the different species, is the most adapted one to this new region.

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