



## On the presence of *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) in Jamaica

## Sobre la presencia de *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae) en Jamaica

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<https://zoobank.org/References/89E81094-54DB-4812-88FB-AC9F5F6029EC>

**Abstract.**– Recent records of *Zelus renardii* in Jamaica are presented. Ambiguities in the literature about the presence of the species in the country are discussed.

**Key words:** *Invasive, faunistics, new records, citizen science.*

**Resumen.**– Se presentan registros recientes de *Zelus renardii* en Jamaica. Se discuten ambigüedades en la literatura acerca de la presencia de esta especie en el país.

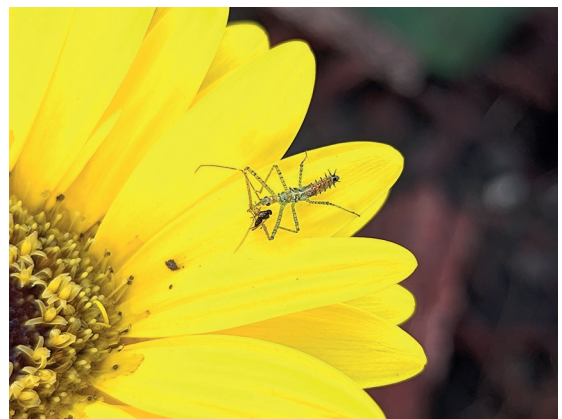
**Palabras clave:** *Invasiva, faunística, nuevos registros, ciencia ciudadana.*

The genus *Zelus* Fabricius, 1803 (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Reduviidae: Harpactorinae: Harpactorini) contains 71 species from the Nearctic and the Neotropical Region (Zhang *et al.*, 2016). The Nearctic Leafhopper Assassin Bug *Zelus renardii* Kolenati, 1857 is the only species of the genus that has successfully colonized various other parts of the world, mainly in South America and Pacific Islands (e.g., Curkovic *et al.*, 2004; D’Herve *et al.*, 2018; Faúndez *et al.*, 2023), Europe, especially in the Mediterranean Region (e.g., Kment & van der Heyden, 2022) and North Africa (e.g., van der Heyden, 2023a, 2023b).

Regarding the presence of *Z. renardii* in Jamaica there have been ambiguities and inaccuracies in the literature: Maldonado Capriles (1990) mentioned the presence of the species in the country – but did not provide any specific data. Curkovic *et al.* (2004), referring to Hart (1986), also mentioned the distribution of *Z. renardii* in Jamaica – but Hart (1986) had not included the country in his distribution list. Zhang *et al.* (2016) mentioned *Z. renardii* as introduced to Jamaica (p. 16), but later on did not mention

the country in their distribution list of the species (p. 262). Finally, Bella (2020), referring to D’Herve *et al.* (2018), included Jamaica in his distribution list – but, again, the country is not listed in the cited paper.

On 25.xi.2023, a nymph and several adult specimens of *Z. renardii* were photographed by Sheldon Logan in Harbour View, located south-east of the capital Kingston at the southern coast of the country. Photos of the specimens were up-



**Figure 1.** Nymph of *Z. renardii* with prey from Harbour View, Jamaica. (Photo: Sheldon Logan).



**Figure 2.** Adult specimen of *Z. renardii* from Harbour View, Jamaica. (Photo: Sheldon Logan).

loaded to the online database iNaturalist (Logan, 2023a, 2023b, 2023c, 2023d). On 30.xi.2023, Sheldon Logan photographed a nymph (Fig. 1) and an adult specimen (Fig. 2) of *Z. renardii* in Harbour View. For identification, we follow Hart (1986).

These records confirm the presence of *Z. renardii* in Jamaica. Taking the ability of *Z. renardii* to colonize new areas (compare e.g. Kment & van der Heyden, 2022) into account, they might mark the beginning of an invasion in the island; especially considering the sighting of both adults and immatures.

Recently, *Z. renardii* has experienced several distributional expansions in the Neotropical and Andean Regions. These include very diverse ecological areas with distinct climates, such as deserts, grasslands and even the southern tip of the continent (Faúndez *et al.*, 2023). Therefore, these new records in Central America might be part of the expansion of *Z. renardii* in the Americas. Further collecting is needed to assess the successful colonization in Jamaica.

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