

Laboratory and Field Investigations on the Biology *Oxycarenus lavaterae* (FABRICIUS) (Heteroptera: Lygaeidae) in Bulgaria.

Plamen Kalushkov^{1*}, *Nikolai Simov*² and *Roza Tzankova*¹

¹Institute of Zoology, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria,
e-mail: plamenkalushkov@yahoo.com;

²National Museum of Natural History, Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, 1 Tsar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1000 Sofia,
Bulgaria.

Abstract: In laboratory conditions, when fed on linden seeds from *Tilia parvifolia* EHRH., the larval development of *Oxycarenus lavaterae* lasted 28 days at a temperature of 24°C. The longevity of adults lasted 90-98 days and the mean fecundity was 291 eggs. The bug was found in a regions of Bulgaria, too. In the colder regions (Ruse, Sofia) the mortality in winter aggregations reached up to 99%. **In the Struma valley (Kresna)** where the lowest winter temperatures were on an average of about 5° C higher in comparison with the lowest winter temperatures in Sofia and Ruse, the mortality in winter aggregations was nearly 50%.

Key words: larval development, longevity, fecundity, mortality, distribution