

SPECIES FACT SHEET

Common Name: Hairy Shore Bug

Scientific Name: *Saldula villosa* (Hodgden, 1949)

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Heteroptera

Family: Saldidae

Technical Description:

S. villosa has an oval body shape. It ranges in length from 3.75 mm to 4.43 mm and the width of its pronotum ranges from 1.50 mm to 2.08 mm. It has a general black color with pruinose blue and yellow spots. Its eyes are pale brown to red-brown and its head is black with yellow spots on each side of the ocelli. (Hodgden, 1949)

S. villosa can be distinguished from *S. severini* and *S. orbiculata* by the distinct deep depression of the anterior lobe of the pronotum behind the median fovea, by the color pattern of the hemelytra, and the longer hind tibia and second antennal segment. Also *S. severini* and *S. orbiculata* do not have the blue spot on the corium next to the apex of the claval suture. (Hodgden, 1949)

Life History:

We were unable to find information on specific documentation of *S. villosa*'s life history. Other *Saldula* species lay eggs at the base of grass blades, insert their eggs into plant tissue, or glue them to other surfaces. Eggs for other studied *Saldula* species range in size from .6 mm x .15 mm to 1.2 mm x 0.3 mm and are of elongate cylindrical shape. Eggs hatched in 7 to 12 days and it then took 16 to 17 days to reach adulthood. (Menke, 1979)

Other *Saldula* species vary in overwintering habits. Many overwinter as adults, but some overwinter as eggs, and others are thought to be active during warm periods throughout the winter. (Menke, 1979)

Range, Distribution, and Abundance:

Historic

The historic range of *S. villosa* is not well known. Specimens were collected in Marin and Sonoma Counties in California and a single specimen found from Coos Bay County in Oregon.

The Oregon specimen was collected 4.5 miles north of North Bend on 4/26/37 (OSU Arthropod Collection).

Current

S. villosa's current range in Oregon is unknown. Due to the species small size, limited range, and rarity there are no amateur recordings. There have been few surveys conducted for the species.

John D. Lattin, professor emeritus Oregon State University, conducted several searches for the species (circa 1960's) but never located specimens of this species. He is unaware of anyone else that has searched and found it. (Lattin personal communication).

Kerrie Palermo, Coos Bay District Wildlife Biologist, is not aware of any surveys performed for this species in the Coos Bay District. (Palmero personal communication).

Habitat Associations:

S. villosa is a salt marsh species. Its habitat may be washed by high tides. Although not confirmed, *S. villosa* may undergo submersion. A similar salt marsh species, *S. fernaldi*, is known to tolerate submersion for up to 9 hours. (Menke, 1979)

Threats:

The threats to this species are unknown. Loss of salt marsh habitat is a potential threat. The lack of knowledge of current range makes understanding potential threats difficult.

Conservation Considerations:

Due to its size and limited understanding of its specific life history it is difficult to determine what conservation steps are necessary for this species.

Avoid disturbance of *S. villosa*'s potential habitat (salt marshes), take measures to maintain or enhance potential habitat, and undertake surveys within these habitats prior to management actions that may impact the habitat.

Surveys of its known historic Oregon location are needed to determine if the species can be found again.

Other pertinent information (includes references to Survey Protocols, etc):

Conservation status

Heritage Global Rank: G3

Heritage State Rank: Oregon (S1)

Survey Protocol

There is no specific survey protocol for this species. A protocol would include careful searching of potential habitat and collecting shore bug species for identification by a qualified individual.

Key to Identification of the Species

Note: All specimens need to be identified by a qualified taxonomist.

Original description: Hodgden, B.B. 1949. New Saldidae From the Western Hemisphere (Hemiptera). The Journal of the Kansas Entomological Society. 22: 162-165.

The Saldidae section of Menke, A.E. (ed.). 1979. The Semiaquatic and Aquatic Hemiptera of California (Heteroptera: Hemiptera). Bulletin of the California Insect Survey. 21: 16-31.

ATTACHMENTS:

- (1) List of Pertinent References/Literature/Pertinent or knowledgeable contacts**
- (2) Distribution Map**
- (3) Photos**

Preparer: Scott Black and Logan Lauvray, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation

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References

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Oregon State University Arthropod Collection. Dr. Christopher J. Marshall, Collection Manager and Assistant Curator. Corvallis, OR. Species ID # 000087487, 000087509, and 000084244.

Personal communication

John D. Lattin, professor emeritus Oregon State University, Corvallis OR

Kerrie Palermo, BLM Coos Bay District Wildlife Biologist, Coos Bay OR

Knowledgeable contacts

Scott Black, Executive Director, The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation, 503-232-6639

John D. Lattin, professor emeritus Oregon State University, Corvallis OR
541-737-5505

Hairy Shore Bug (*Saldula villosa*) Distribution Map



Attachment to Species Fact sheet prepared by The Xerces Society.

Hairy Shore Bug (*Saldula villosa*) photos



Photos by Dr. Jim Young from specimens in the Oregon State University Arthropod Collection
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