

NATUURHISTORISCHE EN ANDERE NOTITIES NATURAL HISTORY AND OTHER NOTES

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INHOUD-CONTENTS

Voorwoord – Preface.....	2
Mienis, H.K. Activity pattern of the Cockchafer <i>Aplidia chaifensis</i> in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel, in 2017	3
Mienis, H.K.: A first record of the Harlequin ladybird <i>Harmonia axyridis</i> from Israel (Coleoptera, Coccinellidae)	5
Mienis, H.K.: Enkele dieren en planten nabij de rotonde op het kruispunt Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend, 2. De Zuringrandwants <i>Coreus marginatus</i>	8
Mienis, H.K.: Colonies of breeding Monk parakeets <i>Myiopsitta monachus</i> in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel	10
Mienis, H.K.: Enkele dieren en planten nabij de rotonde op het kruispunt Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend, 3. Wilde cichorei <i>Cichorium intybus</i>	14

Voorwoord

Dit 14^{de} nummer van 'Natuurhistorische en Andere Notities – Natural History and Other Notes' bevat vijf korte notities gebaseerd op vondsten, waarnemingen of studies gedaan in Nederland of Israël.

Deze nieuwsbrief is voorlopig gepland als een kwartaal uitgave. Van elk nummer zullen 50 gelijktijdig gedrukte exemplaren verschijnen die voornamelijk bestemd zijn voor bibliotheken van instituten en museums. Daarnaast is elk nummer ook gratis electronisch verkrijgbaar via de website van mijn collega en vriend Oz Rittner:

http://israel-nature-site.com/?page_id=1872%20%80%8F

Hoewel deze uitgave geheel voldoet aan de eisen die de 'Internationale Commissie voor Zoologische Naamgeving' gesteld heeft voor een wetenschappelijk tijdschrift, zullen in dit tijdschrift geen artikelen gepubliceerd worden die van invloed zijn op de naamgeving van een of andere wetenschappelijke eenheid.

Artikelen mogen overgenomen worden mits de schrijver daarover geïnformeerd is en de bron genoemd wordt.

Deze publikatie wordt geindexeerd in de Zoological Record.

Ondertussen heeft deze publikatie een officieel 'International Serial Standard Number' ontvangen:

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Preface

This 14th issue of 'Natuurhistorische en Andere Notities – Natural History and Other Notes' contains five short notes based on finds, observations or studies made in the Netherlands or Israel.

This newsletter is planned for the meantime as a quarterly. Of each number 50 simultaneously printed copies will appear which are primarily intended for libraries of institutes and museums. In addition each issue is downloadable free of charge by means of the website of my colleague and friend Oz Rittner:

http://israel-nature-site.com/?page_id=1872%20%80%8F

Although this publication meets the standards of a permanent scientific journal as stipulated by the 'International Commission for Zoological Nomenclature' no articles will be published in this journal which will influence the nomenclature of a certain taxonomic unit.

Articles may be reprinted on the understanding that the author is informed about it and the source mentioned.

This publication is being indexed in the Zoological Record.

In the meantime this publication has received an official 'International Serial Standard Number':

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**Activity pattern of the Cockchafer *Aplidia chaifensis*
in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel, in 2017**

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**Activiteits patroon van de Meikever *Aplidia chaifensis* in
Kibboets Netzer Sereni, Israël, in 2017**

De Meikever *Aplidia chaifensis* Kraatz, 1882 vertoont een activiteits patroon dat ongeveer een maand eerder valt dan dat van een andere Meikever *Pachydemia albipilis* in Kibboets Netzer Sereni, Israël. Beide soorten worden heel aktief in de korte periode tussen zonsondergang en de volgende duisternis en zijn daardoor heel gemakkelijk te vangen met behulp van een lichtval.

Also this year I am operating a primitive light trap on the balcony of our house in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni (Mienis, 2016). Like in the past it is a covered balcony open to three sides but its place has slightly shifted towards a huge pecan-tree in the wake of renovations and additions to our house in the autumn of 2016. The neon tube has also been replaced by a 25 watt energy saving lamp of a soft warm type, but otherwise I am still using an old white sheet close to the light source.

During the study of the activity pattern of the Cockchafer *Pachydemia albipilis* Reitter, 1902 I started to use the light trap on 28 May 2016 (Mienis, 2016), however I had noted that another Cockchafer *Aplidia chaifensis* Kraatz, 1882 was occasionally seen during the short period between sunset and the quickly following complete darkness already one or two weeks earlier. Therefore I started operating the light trap this time one month earlier on 28 April 2017.



Fig.1: *Aplidia chaifensis* Kraatz, 1882 (Photographs: Oz Rittner).

Already the same evening I caught the first *Aplidia chaifensis* followed on the 3rd of May by the first *Maladera insanabilis* (Brenske, 1894). During slightly less than a month small numbers of *Aplidia* were regularly caught, the last one on 24 May 2017 (Table 1).

Day	April	Day	May
28	1	13	6
29	1	14	6
30	1	15	0
	May	16	7
1	1	17	1
2	2	18	0
3	3	19	0
4	3	20	0
5	1	21	0
6	2	22	0
7	4	23	0
8	3	24	1
9	0	25	0
10	5	26	0
11	0	27	0
12	0	total	48

Table 1: Specimens of *Aplidia chaifensis* collected in Netzer Sereni, Israel, in 2017

During this period there were several days with very high daily temperatures for example on the 9th of May the temperature raised to 39° Celsius in the shadow in Netzer Sereni. During that evening no activity of *Aplidia chaifensis* was observed, while *Maladera insanabilis*, a species which remains active during the major part of the summer, continued flying around.

After the 24th of May *Aplidia chaifensis* was not seen anymore. On the 1st of June the first specimen of *Pachyderma albipilis* was caught and since then it is regularly seen.

From these observations it appears that *Aplidia chaifensis* and *Pachyderma albipilis* show separated periods of activity, while the invasive *Maladera insanabilis* is becoming active already when *Aplidia chaifensis* is flying around.

Acknowledgement

I like to thank my colleague Oz Rittner for allowing me to use the photographs of *Aplidia chaifensis* from his website.

Reference

Mienis, H.K., 2016. Activity pattern of the Cockchafer *Pachyderma albipilis* in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel, in 2016. Natuurhistorische en Andere Notities – Natural History and Other Notes, 11: 7-9.

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**A first record of the Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* from Israel
(Coleoptera, Coccinellidae)**

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**Een eerste vermelding van het Aziatisch lieveheersbeestje *Harmonia axyridis* van Israël
(Coleoptera, Coccinellidae)**

Op 6 juni 2017 ving ik een exemplaar van het Aziatisch lieveheersbeestje *Harmonia axyridis* in een lichtval in Kibboets Netzer Sereni, Israël. Dit schijnt de eerste vondst van deze invasieve soort in Israël te zijn. In het oostelijk deel van het Mediterrane gebied was dit Lieveheersbeestje reeds bekend uit Turkije en Egypte. Daar veel onderzoek wordt uitgevoerd in Israël op het gebied van biologische bestrijding van bladluizen, vraag ik mij af of iemand deze soort zonder vergunning moedwillig geimporteerd heeft. Een officiële berichtgeving daarover heb ik tot nog toe niet gezien.

The Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* (Pallas, 1773), Fam. Coccinellidae, is a native species of Eastern Asia. Because of its voracious appetite of aphids it is being used as a biological control agent of such plant pests all over the world. Although most applications of biological control usually take place in closed hothouses, numerous accounts are known that these foreign Ladybirds escaped and became successful invaders. Since they show often a rather aggressive behaviour towards other Ladybird species, they are regarded as an unwelcome potential threat to native Coccinellidae.

While surveying the activity patterns of certain Cockchafers in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni with the help of a light trap a Ladybird landed on the white sheet hanging near the artificial light source on 6 June 2017. This beetle was quite unlike the Ladybirds occasionally trapped in this way, but rather similar to the numerous Harlequin ladybirds I encounter often during my annual visits to the Netherlands.

The elytra were of a pale orange to beige colour and showed 9 black dots on each half which were arranged from front to back in rows of 2-3-3-1 resulting in a total number of 18 black dots of various sizes. The legs were of a light brownish colour (Fig. 1, see remark). Towards the rear end of the elytra a well developed notch was present (Fig. 2). That notch serves as a firm differentiating character between the polychromic Harlequin ladybird and similarly coloured native Coccinellids like for instance *Harmonia quadripunctata* (Pontoppidan, 1763) (see the website of my colleague Oz Rittner: http://israel-nature-site.com/?page_id=1835, which photographed was reproduced by Norman Ali Bassam Ali Taher Khalaf-von Jaffa, 2013: 4 (in colour) and by the same author in 2014: 51 (black&white text-figure).

This seems to be the first Asiatic harlequin ladybird ever observed and caught in Israel (Halperin *et al.*, 1995). Records either from Israel or Palestine are not mentioned in the studies published by Brown *et al.*, 2011 and Camacho-Cervantes *et al.*, 2017. In countries bordering the East-Mediterranean it has been recorded from Turkey by Aysal & Kivan (2014) and Camacho-Cervantes *et al.* (2017), while in

Egypt it has been studied by El-Sebaey & El-Gantiry (1999) and also released in the fields for the control of *Aphis craccivora* in Faba beans (Ferran *et al.*, 2000). All records of *Harmonia axyridis* from Lebanon on the internet are somewhat misleading because they are dealing with New Lebanon and Lebanon County in the U.S.A. Likewise no records are known to me from Syria, Jordan and Palestine.

What remains is the problem concerning the origin of the specimen caught near my house in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni. According to Prof. Zvi Mendel (personal information, 19 June 2017) it has never been intentionally introduced into Israel. Did it arrive from either Turkey or Egypt, or has someone secretly brought this Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* to Israel in order to carry out his own experiments in controlling aphids without informing the official authorities? If more specimens of the Asiatic Harlequin ladybirds turn up in Israel then native Coccinellids may await difficult times.



Fig. 1: The Harlequin beetle *Harmonia axyridis*.
(Photo: Mike A. Quinn, Bugguide.net)



Fig. 2: The notch at the rear end of the elytra.
(Photo: Henk Mienis)

* Remark: When the specimen was photographed it had died already, which had caused some remarkable changes in its colouration: the basic colour of the pronotum had changed from white to orange, while the pale-orange elytra had turned into a much darker orange. Such colour changes after death seem also to occur occasionally among other beetle species (Oz. Rittner, personal information). Because of the change in colour I decided to reproduce here a photograph taken by Mike A. Quinn of a similar coloured specimen caught in the United States.

Acknowledgements

In like to thank Prof. Zvi Mendel (Department of Entomology, Agricultural Research Organization, Rishon leZiyon) for confirming that *Harmonia axyridis* was never officially introduced into Israel, Mr. Mike A. Quinn for the use of his photograph of

Harmonia axyridis and last but not least my colleague Oz Rittner (the Steinhardt Museum of Natural History, Tel Aviv University) for information concerning colour changes in certain beetles after death.

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**Enkele dieren en planten nabij de rotonde op het kruispunt
Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend, 2.
De Zuringrandwants *Coreus marginatus***

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**Some animals and plants near the roundabout on the crossing Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in
Purmerend, 2. The Dock bug *Coreus marginatus***

During a brief survey of the land snails occurring near the rather recently built roundabout on the crossing Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend, North-Holland, the Netherlands, numerous Dock bugs *Coreus marginatus* were noticed to feed on several roadside weeds in the autumn of 2016.

In een vorige aflevering heb ik geschreven over het plotselinge voorkomen van de invasieve Zandslak *Theba pisana* (Müller, 1774) nabij de rotonde op het kruispunt Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend (Mienis, 2017). Deze Mediterrane slak was niet de enige opvallende diersoort nabij die rotonde.

Opvallend was ook het grote aantal Zuringrandwanten *Coreus marginatus* (Linnaeus, 1758), Fam. Coreidae, dat aanwezig was op diverse planten. Gezien de Nederlandse naam voedt deze wants zich vooral met Zuring *Rumex*-soorten, Fam. Polygonaceae, maar in werkelijkheid staan heel veel andere plantensoorten behorende tot een groot aantal families op het menu van deze Randwants. Deze laatste naam heeft het te danken aan het feit dat rond het achterste gedeelte van het lichaam een duidelijke rand aanwezig is.

De Zuringrandwants is een vrij algemene soort in Nederland maar valt alleen op als hij plotseling in grote aantallen aanwezig is zoals dat het geval was in Purmerend.



Fig. 1: De Zuringrandwants *Coreus marginatus* (Photo: Henk Mienis)

In Purmerend werden heel veel exemplaren vooral gezien op 7 oktober 2016 in de middenberm van de Neckerstraat vanaf de rotonde tot aan het viaduct onder de A-7. Helaas werden op die dag alle ruigtes rondom de rotonde gemaaid.

Heel toevallig werd onlangs ook een foto van de Zuringrandwants afgedrukt in het tijdschrift 'Rinkelbollen' van de Natuurvereniging Terschelling. Tevens werd daar aandacht geschonken aan het 'Wantsen project 2017-2018' dat op dit moment uitgevoerd wordt door EIS, waarneming.nl en de Nederlandse Entomologische Vereniging.



Voor dit project is een 'Veldgids Wantsen' uitgegeven door EIS, die besteld kan worden via eis@naturalis.nl voor een bedrag van 5 Euro (exclusief verzendkosten). Het is echter ook mogelijk om deze gids te downloaden .

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Colonies of breeding Monk parakeets *Myiopsitta monachus* in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel

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Kolonies van broedende Monniksparkieten *Myiopsitta monachus*
in Kibboets Netzer Sereni, Israël

De invasieve Monniksparkiet *Myiopsitta monachus* broedt in Kibboets Netzer Sereni op zijn minst gedurende de afgelopen drie jaar. In 2017 werden grote vrijhangende bouwsels in hoge naaldbomen aangetroffen in twee kolonies bestaande respectievelijk uit 8 en 2 bouwsels. Elk bouwsel bevatte meestal 2 tot 3 nestingen die toegang verleenden tot aparte kraamkamers van even zoveel paartjes. Dit betekent dat dit jaar op zijn minst 10 maar misschien wel 20 paar Monniksparkieten in Netzer Sereni gebroed hebben.

*This article is written in memory of
Mrs. Rivka Bakun (1926-2016)
beloved biology teacher of my children
at the elementary school in Netzer Sereni.*

The Monk parakeet or Quaker parrot *Myiopsitta monachus* (Boddaert, 1783), Fam. Psittacidae, is a species of South American origin where it is especially common in Argentina and the southern part of Brazil.

It is a rather small bright green parakeet, up to 30 cm body length, characterized by grey cheeks and breast, and blue coloured wing tips (Fig. 1). In both male and female birds the feathers are similarly coloured.



Fig. 1: Monk parakeet *Myiopsitta monachus* (Photo: unknown)

Already at a rather early date it was recognized as an excellent cage bird which can be easily learned to talk and therefore it has been carried over large parts of the world. In many countries Monk parakeets regularly escaped from their cages, and where the climate was suitable they established free living feral populations.

Since 1995 free living Monk parakeets are known from the Yarqon Park in Tel Aviv, Israel (Shwartz *et al.*, 2008; Postigo *et al.*, 2017) where they had most likely escaped from the "Zappari", the local bird zoo. Slowly but steadily this gregarious bird started to breed and self-sustaining feral populations occur now in the larger Tel Aviv and Central Districts in Israel (Perlman *et al.*, 2017).

Breeding sites are easily discovered by the noise these parakeets produce and especially by the so-called stick nests: huge communal hanging structures with a height of one meter or more and a width of 60-70 cm. These large structures show often several entrances which are leading to separate nests each occupied by a single pair.

The first Monk parakeets arrived at least some three years ago in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, where they started to build their communal nests in large Pine trees near "Bet Bakun" (Fig. 2). Eight large communal nests were counted in those trees in the spring of 2017. Most nests showed more than one nest opening.



Fig. 2: Communal nest with several entrances in a Pine tree near 'Bet Bakun' (Photo: Henk Mienis)

In similar Pine trees near the sports hall at a distance of some 100 m from the 'Bet Bakun'-colony two large, occupied communal nests were counted in the same period. This means that in Netzer Sereni some 10-20 pairs of Monk parakeets were breeding in 2017.

A female Monk parakeet is laying 5 to 12 white eggs. The breeding is carried out by both female and male and the eggs hatch in about 24 days (Fig. 3). Feeding of the young is not only carried out by both parents but they often are aided by non-breeding young birds.



Fig. 3: A pair of Monk parakeets near the nest opening (Photo: Henk Mienis)

Monk parakeets are omnivorous, they prefer however vegetable food in the form of leaves, roots, flower-buds, all kind of fruits and nuts, however regularly they feed also on insects, worms and other invertebrates.

When they are looking for food they often fly around in flocks of several pairs and their offspring. On quiet hours of the day this can be seen for example on the lawn between the colony near 'Bet Bakun' and the theatre hall.

Often other birds join them like Ring-neck parakeets *Psittacula krameri* (Scopoli, 1769), Fam. Psittaculidae, and Common mynas *Acridotheres tristis* (Linnaeus, 1766), Fam. Sturnidae, both invasive species in Israel like the Monk parakeet and the local Hooded crow *Corvus cornix* (Linnaeus, 1758), Fam. Corvidae).

For the meantime the Monk parakeet is a funny addition to the avifauna of Netzer Sereni but if their number increases rapidly than most likely they may turn into a nuisance not only in the local gardens but also in the agricultural fields surrounding the kibbutz especially when the crops consist of sunflowers or maize.

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**Enkele dieren en planten nabij de rotonde op het kruispunt
Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend, 3.
Wilde cichorei *Cichorium intybus***

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**Some animals and plants near the roundabout on the crossing Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in
Purmerend, 3. Common chicory *Cichorium intybus***

Among the plants present on the recently built roundabout at the crossing Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend, North-Holland, the Netherlands, excelled the blue flowers of the Common chicory *Cichorium intybus* in the autumn of 2016. At one more site in Purmerend near the North-Holland Canal another population of this interesting plant was registered.

De vegetatie op en nabij de rotonde van het kruispunt Neckerstraat-Verbindingsweg in Purmerend werd in de herfst van 2016 gekarakteriseerd door de aanwezigheid van een groot aantal soorten die normaal niet aanwezig zijn in dat deel van Nederland.



Fig. 1: Wilde cichorei *Cichorium intybus*
(Foto: Henk Mienis)

Opvallend waren vooral de talloze tot 1 meter hoge exemplaren van de Wilde cichorei *Cichorium intybus* met de karakteristieke blauwe bloemen (Fig. 1). Hoewel deze plant reeds in de Middeleeuwen vanuit het Middellandse Zee gebied in Nederland is ingevoerd, wordt zij in Groot-Waterland maar weinig gezien. Dit komt omdat het de voorkeur geeft aan een wat droog vrij zonnig biotoop.

Interessant is dat deze plant voor twee geheel verschillende dingen door de mens is uitgebuit. Zo werd surogaatkoffie voor en vooral tijdens de tweede wereldoorlog gemaakt van stoffen aanwezig in de peen-achtige wortel van de Wilde cichorei.

Daarnaast levert de veredelde soort van de Wilde cichorei de oer-Nederlandse groente witlof op.

De rotonde is niet de enige plaats in Purmerend waar ik de Wilde cichorei zag staan. Tot mijn verrassing was deze plant ook aanwezig in een ruigte bij een van de bruggen aan de oostzijde van het Noord-Hollandskanaal aan de zuidkant van Purmerend.

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