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Voorwoord

Dit 48^{ste} nummer van 'Natuurhistorische en Andere Notities – Natural History and Other Notes' bevat deze keer slechts een artikel dat geheel gewijd is aan Lieveheersbeestjes die in Kibboets Netzer Sereni, Israël, zijn waargenomen in de periode 2020-2025.

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. Elk nummer is ook gratis elektronisch verkrijgbaar via de website van mijn collega en vriend Oz Rittner:

http://israel-nature-site.com/?page_id=1872%E2%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 geïndexeerd in de 'Zoological Record' en heeft een officieel 'International Serial Standard Number' ontvangen: ISSN 2518-5705.

Preface

This 48th issue of 'Natuurhistorische en Andere Notities – Natural History and Other Notes' contains this time only one article which is entirely devoted to Ladybird beetles observed in the years 2020-2025 in Kibbutz Netzer Sereni, 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. 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%E2%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' and has received an official 'International Serial Standard Number': ISSN 2518-5705.

**Ladybird beetles (Coccinellidae) in kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel. 9.
Several additional species and an updated checklist**

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Lieveheersbeestjes (Coccinellidae) in kibboets Netzer Sereni, Israel, 9.

Enige aanvullende soorten en een bijgewerkte soortlijst

A. Een studie van het *Novius* materiaal heeft aangetoond dat naast de Australische soort *Novius cardinalis* (Mienis & Mienis, 2021a – als *Rodolia cardinalis*, maar zie de revisie van Pang *et al.*, 2020) ook de Palaearctische *Novius cruentatus* Mulsant, 1846 in Netzer Sereni voorkomt.

B. Het geslacht *Hyperaspis* is in Netzer Sereni vertegenwoordigd door drie soorten. Het blijkt dat de *Hyperaspis polita* in Mienis & Mienis (2021b) in werkelijkheid een mengsel was van twee soorten. Naast *Hyperaspis polita* kwam in het materiaal ook *Hyperaspis marmottani* voor. Van de uit Mexico ingevoerde *Hyperaspis trifurcata* worden zo nu en dan exemplaren aangetroffen.

C. *Cheilomenes propinqua nilotica* is een algemene soort in Netzer Sereni die in twee verschillende kleuren voorkomt: een geheel zwarte en een crème kleurige. Parende stelletjes zijn vaak gemengd van kleur. Onlangs werd een exemplaar van een andere ondersoort aangetroffen: *Cheilomenes propinqua vicina*, die algemeen in Afrika en op het Arabische schiereiland voorkomt.

D. Hoewel *Pharoscyrmus fleischeri* beschouwd wordt als een algemene soort in Israël en Palestina, is pas in september 2025 een eerste exemplaar in de kibboets aangetroffen.

E. In juni-juli 2025 werden diverse exemplaren van een zwart-witte vorm van *Oenopia oncina* aangetroffen. Deze exemplaren zijn veel groter en breder dan de zwart-witte *Hyperaspis* soorten die in dezelfde periode in Netzer Sereni voorkomen.

F. In de periode 2020-2025 werden tot nog toe 40 soorten Lieveheersbeestjes aangetroffen in een gebied van minder dan 1 vierkante kilometer in kibboets Netzer Sereni. In de tuin van Henk zijn tot nog toe 36 soorten aangetroffen in een gebied van 150 m². Alle soorten aangetroffen in kibboets Netzer Sereni zijn opgenomen in een bijgewerkte lijst.

A. Not one but two *Novius* species in Netzer Sereni

In the second issue of Ladybird beetles in kibbutz Netzer Sereni we followed Mendel *et al.* (2017) and mentioned *Rodolia cardinalis* (Mulsant, 1850) from kibbutz Netzer Sereni (Mienis & Mienis, 2021a). Recently the Vedula or Cardinal ladybirds have been revised (Pang *et al.*, 2020) and all are now placed in the genus *Novius* Mulsant, 1846. Besides *Novius cardinalis*, an Australian species, a second species, this time of Palaearctic origin, has been collected in kibbutz Netzer Sereni: *Novius cruentatus* Mulsant 1846.

Novius cardinalis



Fig. 1: *Novius cardinalis* (Mulsant, 1850)

Novius cardinalis has two irregular black spots one below the other on each elytron. The elytra are separated by a black line and show slightly above the middle an oval black spot. Along the sides of the elytra runs often also a black line.

Records in kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel:

In Henk's garden, on a glue trap hanging from a *Pomella Citrus maxima* (=grandis) tree, leg. H.K. Mienis, 5 May 2023 (1); idem, 23 May 2023 (1); idem, 30 May 2023 (1); idem, 8 June 2023 (1); idem, 17 July 2023 (2); idem, 29 July 2023 (1); idem, 16 August 2023 (1); idem, 9 September 2023 (3); idem, 19 September 2023 (1); idem, 31 October 2023 (3); idem, 8 November 2023 (1); idem, 14 April 2025 (1) [bright red drops of an aquatic substance dripping from damaged specimen]; idem, 15 April 2025 (1); idem, 10 October 2025 (1); idem, 27 October 2025 (1); idem, 1 November 2025 (1); idem, 4 November 2025 (1); idem, 6 November 2025 (2); idem, 18 November 2025 (1); idem, 20 November 2025 (1); idem, 24 November 2025 (2); idem, 26 November 2025 (1); idem, 27 November 2025 (2); idem, 23 December 2025 (1).

In Henk's garden, on glue trap hanging from a Bicolored *Ficus* tree, leg. H.K. Mienis, 1 June 2023 (1).

In Henk's garden, on glue trap hanging from a *Brugmansia arborea*, leg. H.K. Mienis, 19 September 2023 (1); idem, 20 December 2025 (1).

In Henk's garden on glue trap hanging from *Robinia pseudoacacia* tree, leg. H.K. Mienis, 9 October 2025 (1); idem, 11 October 2025 (1); idem, 15 October 2025 (1); idem, 16 October 2025 (1); idem, 21 October 2025 (1); idem, 22 October 2025 (1); idem, 25 October 2025 (1); idem, 31 October 2025 (1); idem, 1 November 2025 (1); idem, 2 November 2025 (1); idem, 3 November 2025 (1); idem, 18 November 2025 (2); idem, 22 November 2025 (2); idem, 29 November 2025 (1); idem, 3 December 2025 (1); idem, 5 December 2025 (2); idem, 21 December 2025 (2); idem, 23 December 2025 (1);

Novius cruentatus



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Fig. 2: *Novius cruentatus* Mulsant, 1846

Novius cruentatus is in form slightly more slender and a little bit longer than in *Novius cardinalis*. The elytra are separated by a weak black line only near the pronotum, an oval black spot between the elytra is missing. Two irregular black spots, the largest toward the pronotum are more closely present near the central border of the elytron. Towards the outside of the elytra are often two other smaller black dots which are partly covered by a black line which follows the outside borders of the elytra. Often near the pronotum and near the end of the elytra are one or two small dark spots.

Records in kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel:

In Henk's garden, on a glue trap hanging from a Pomella tree, leg. H.K. Mienis, 28 May 2023 (1); idem, 10 June 2023 (1); idem, 12 June 2023 (1); idem, 6 October 2025 (1); idem, 10 October 2025 (1); idem, 10 November 2025 (1); idem, 12 November 2025 (1); idem, 20 November 2025 (1).

B. *Hyperaspis marmottani* and *Hyperaspis polita* are both living in Netzer Sereni

According to Mendel *et al.*, 2017 eight species of the genus *Hyperaspis* are known from Israel. Two of them: *Hyperaspis polita* (Weise, 1885) and *Hyperaspis trifurcata* Schaeffer, 1905 have been reported from the garden of Henk in Netzer Sereni (respectively in Mienis & Mienis, 2021b and 2023a). The records of *Hyperaspis polita* were unfortunately based on a mixture of two rather similar species: *Hyperaspis polita* and *Hyperaspis marmottani* (Fairmaire, 1868). According to the revisions of the Iranian species of the genus *Hyperaspis* (Biranvand *et al.*, 2017; Zare Khormizi *et al.*, 2025) in *polita* the posterior spots on the elytron are not connected to the colored border along the sides of the elytron, while they are connected to that colored stripe in *marmottani*. More over the spot at the anterior part of the colored border below the pronotum is round in *marmottani* and more triangular in *polita*.

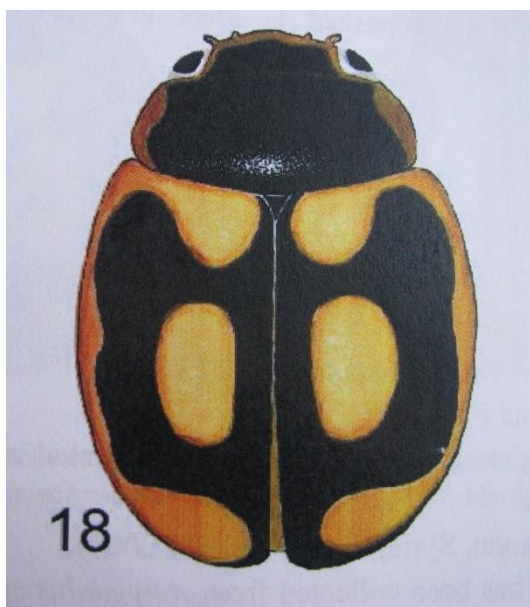


Fig. 3: *Hyperaspis marmottani* Schaeffer, 1905

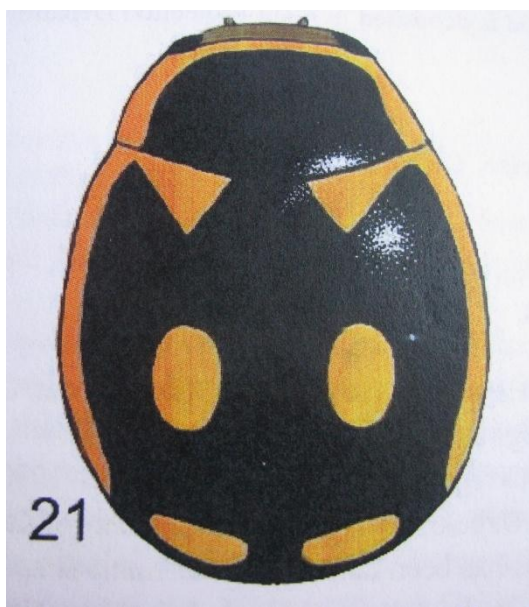


Fig. 4: *Hyperaspis polita* (Weise, 1885)

Drawings [18 & 21] were taken from Biranvand (2017)

Hyperaspis polita seems to be the more common species in Netzer Sereni. Excellent drawings of *Hyperaspis* species living in Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East are in

the article by Biranvand *et al.*, 2017. *Hyperaspis trifurcata*, a species of Mexican origin introduced in Israel, does not seem to live in Iran.

C. A first find of *Cheilomenes propinqua vicina* in Netzer Sereni

The Nilotic ladybird beetle *Cheilomenes propinqua nilotica* (Mulsant, 1850) occurs in two color-forms in Israel: specimens with entirely black and others with cream elytra are commonly seen in Netzer Sereni. In 2020 black ones were the common ones but now and then also cream specimens were encountered especially in the flowers of *Rosa* and *Hibiscus* (Mienis & Mienis, 2020). Pairs consisting of a black and a cream one were often seen in copulation. This year (2025) cream ones were extremely commonly encountered on yellow glue traps, while black ones were hardly seen.

In a period with very high daylight temperatures: 30-40° Celsius and 20-30° Celsius during the night a black specimen was found on a glue trap hanging in a *Robinia pseudoacacia* tree with a bright red dot at the posterior ends of the elytra. That specimen fitted the description of a subspecies of *Cheilomenes propinqua vicina* (Mulsant, 1850) from Yemen as figured in Raimundo, van Haren & Fürsch (2000: plt. 20). In the specimen from Netzer Sereni the colored spots at the extreme hind parts of the elytra are bright red, a common color variety in that subspecies.

According to Raimundo *et al.*, 2000 it is a subspecies which is widespread in Africa, Saudi Arabia and Yemen.

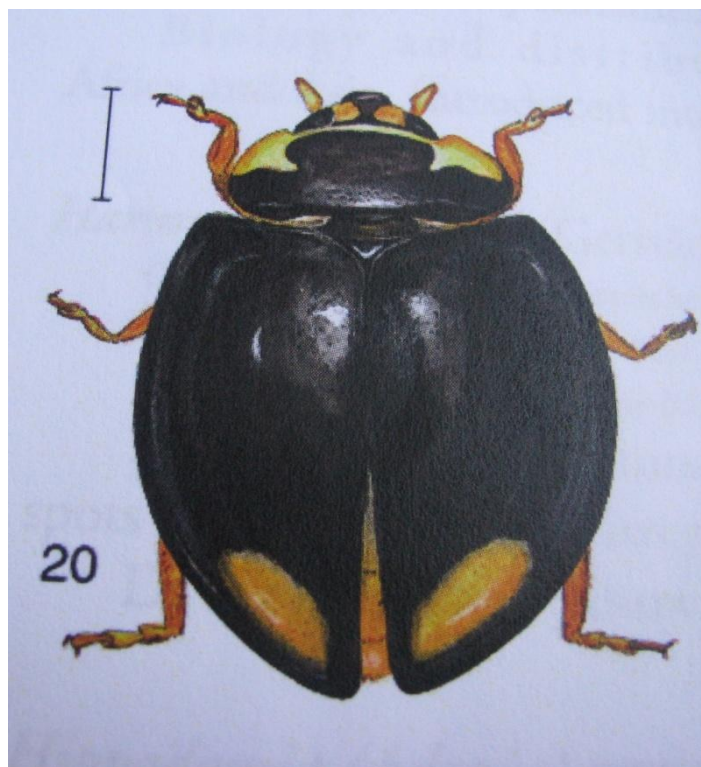


Fig. 5: *Cheilomenes propinqua vicina* (Mulsant, 1850)
Drawing [20] made by António José Contente and
taken from Raimundo *et al.*, 2000

During that period in August several other Ladybird species were caught with the help of glue traps which are typical for hot southern areas. A good example is *Psyllobora bisoetonotata*.

D. A first record of *Pharoscymnus fleischeri* in Netzer Sereni

On 4 September 2025 a single specimen of *Pharoscymnus fleischeri* (Weise, 1883) was collected from a glue trap hanging from a Pomello tree *Citrus maxima* (= *grandis*) in the garden of Henk in kibbutz Netzer Sereni by the senior author. This small Ladybird beetle had a size close to 2 mm and showed on each elytron a row of three round yellowish dots of which the central one was the smallest one and closest to the straight border line dividing the elytra.

In his original description of *Pharus fleischeri* from Greece, Weise (1883) mentioned that the three spots on each elytron are of a reddish-yellow color, while on pictures from specimens in the Middle East these spots are always more yellowish.

This species was listed by Halperin, Merkl & Kehat (1995) as a rather common one in Israel, while Najajrah, Swaileh, & Qumsiyeh (2019) wrote the same about its presence in the southern part of Palestine. For Netzer Sereni it is the first record.



Fig. 6: *Pharoscymnus fleischeri* (Weise, 1883)
Photo: Mohammad H. Najajrah

E. First records of *Oenopia oncina* from Netzer Sereni

During the months June-July 2025 relatively large numbers of Ladybird beetles belonging to the genus *Hyperaspis* were found attached to the three glue traps in Henk's garden. So far all the specimens belonging to that genus encountered in Netzer Sereni were small black ones with white ornamentations. Now and then specimens were encountered which were not only larger especially much broader, however, also those beetles showed a similar black and white color pattern on the elytra. In the beginning they were registered as *Hyperaspis* species till it appeared that such specimens were in reality belonging to *Oenopia oncina* (Olivier, 1808). The latter is a rather interesting species showing a large variety in color forms. The specimens from Netzer Sereni are all colored the same: black with a white ornamentation along the sides of the elytra and two rows of round white dots towards the dividing line of the elytra. A specimen collected in Southern Syria and figured in Khalil *et al.*, 2021 showed an exact pattern of ornamentation except for the color which was a reddish one (see a copy of it figure 7). In the meantime I have seen in the literature additional specimens which are exactly like the ones in Netzer Sereni and are of a black and white color.

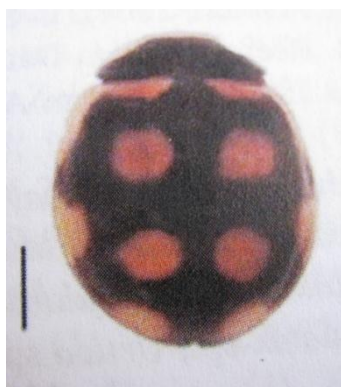


Fig. 7: *Oenopia oncina* (Olivier, 1808)
Photo taken from Khalil *et al.*, 2021

F. An updated list of Ladybird beetles Coccinellidae observed in kibbutz Netzer Sereni

Some ten years ago we started registering our occasional observations of Ladybird beetles Coccinellidae in kibbutz Netzer Sereni. In the beginning we noted of course the presence of the best well known species: the common Ladybug or Seven-spot ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata* Linnaeus, 1758.

That species we knew already from all the children-stories, but quite soon we saw all kind of other Ladybird beetles which were different in size and color or restricted to a single plant species like the Bryony ladybird *Henosepilachna argus* which is mainly feeding on Creta bryony *Bryonia cretica* and Syrian bryony *Bryonia syriaca*, both fairly common climbers in Israel (Mienis & Mienis, 2019).

We even found the first specimens of the Asiatic ladybird *Harmonia axyridis* (Mienis, 2017 & 2018a-b). That Eastern Asiatic species has been introduced in many countries outside its natural area of distribution as a means of biocontrol, but never got a license for usage in Israel (Z. Mendel, personal information). Yet the first information of its presence in kibbutz Netzer Sereni given in the local journal “Natuurhistorische en Andere Notities – Natural History and Other Notes” was quickly referred to in “Acta Entomologica” (Biranvand *et al.*, 2019) and in Israel it formed the reason for a molecular identification study of this Asian lady beetle (Pines *et al.*, 2022).

Since 2020 we are regularly publishing about the presence of Ladybird beetles Coccinellidae in kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel (Mienis & Mienis, 2020, 2021a-d, 2023a-b & 2024). At the moment we have identified the presence of 40 species in that kibbutz, an agricultural village. All the species were encountered in an area of less than one square kilometer. As a matter of fact 36 species were collected in a part of the garden of Henk with an area of only 150 m²!

Most of the Ladybird beetles were caught with the help of glue traps hanging in three different trees in Henk’s garden (see figures 8-10). Although we don’t like the use of glue traps (Mienis, 2023), it is an easy method to obtain large numbers of Ladybird beetles, especially those tiny ones belonging to the subfamily Scymninae. Some of those species are even smaller than 1 mm and are commonly encountered on glue traps while in the field you don’t see them at all.



Fig. 8: Glue trap hanging in *Brugmansia arborea* near a row of *Eugenia uniflora*



Fig. 9: Glue trap hanging in *Robinia pseudoacacia* near a *Punica granatum* shrub



Fig. 10: Glue trap hanging in *Citrus maxima* tree opposite a hedge of *Acca sellowiana*

Table 1: List of Ladybird beetles observed in kibbutz Netzer Sereni, Israel during the period 2020-2025

Family Coccinellidae

Subfamily Coccinellinae

Adalia (Adalia) decempunctata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Cheilomenes propinqua nilotica (Mulsant, 1850)

Cheilomenes propinqua vicina (Mulsant, 1850)

Coccinella (Coccinella) septemdentata Linnaeus, 1758

Coccinella (Neococcinella) undecimpunctata Linnaeus, 1758

Harmonia axyridis (Pallas, 1773)

Harmonia quadripunctata (Pontoppidan, 1763)

Hippodamia (Adonia) variegata (Goeze, 1777)

Hyperaspis marmottani (Fairmaire, 1868)

Hyperaspis polita Weise, 1885

Hyperaspis trifurcata Schaeffer, 1905

Myrrha octodecimguttata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Oenopia conglobata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Oenopia oncina (Olivier, 1808)

Propulea quatuordecimpunctata (Linnaeus, 1758)

Psyllobora bisoetonotata (Mulsant 1850)

Subfamily Chilocorinae

Chilocorus bipustulatus (Linnaeus, 1758)

Exochomus nigromaculatus (Goeze, 1777)

Subfamily Epilachninae

Henosepilachana argus (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785)

Subfamily Scymninae

Clitostethus arcuatus (Rossi, 1794)
Cryptolaemus montrouzieri Mulsant, 1853
Nephus (Nephus) crucifer Fleischer, 1900
Nephus (Nephus) quadrimaculatus (Herbst, 1783)
Scymnus (Parapullus) abietis (Paykull, 1798)
Scymnus (Pullus) nigropictus (Wollaston, 1867)
Scymnus (Pullus) subvillosus (Goeze, 1777)
Scymnus (Pullus) suturalis (Thunberg, 1795)
Scymnus (Pullus) syriacus (Marseul, 1868)
Scymnus (Scymnus) flavicollis (Redtenbacher, 1843)
Scymnus (Scymnus) interruptus (Goeze, 1777)
Scymnus (Scymnus) levaillanti Mulsant, 1850
Scymnus (Scymnus) pallipediformis Günther, 1958
Stethorus gilvifrons (Mulsant, 1850)

Subfamily Sticholotidinae

Pharoscymnus fleischeri (Weise, 1883)
Serangium parcesetosum (Sicard, 1929)

Subfamily Microweiseinae

Delphastus pallidus (LeConte, 1878)

Subfamily Coccidulinae

Rhyzobius forestieri (Mulsant, 1853)
Rhyzobius lophanthae (Blaisdell, 1892)

Subfamily Ortaliinae

Novius cardinalis (Mulsant, 1850)
Novius cruentatus Mulsant 1846

Most probably still other species are living in kibbutz Netzer Sereni. Especially the tiny Scymninae are still underrepresented in the checklist.

Acknowledgement

We like to thank the often unknown drawers and photographers of the Ladybird beetles for the use of their pictures.

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We wish you all the best for 2026



Henosepilachana argus (Geoffroy in Fourcroy, 1785)

Wij wensen u het allerbeste voor 2026