

**FIRST DETECTION OF *Halyomorpha halys* Stål, A NEW INVASIVE SPECIES
WITH A HIGH POTENTIAL OF DAMAGE
ON AGRICULTURAL CROPS IN ROMANIA**

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Abstract

The presence of the Brown Marmorated Stink Bug *Halyomorpha halys* Stål (Heteroptera, Pentatomidae) is signaled for the first time in Romania, in the Botanical Garden of Bucarest. This polyphagous bug, native to Asia, is recorded as an extremely invasive pest of many agricultural crops in the countries where it has been introduced (USA, Italy). The current distribution and pest status, morphology and biology are described. Although the majority of individuals were collected from the Botanical Garden, several other *H. halys* were observed in the urban area, several kilometers away, suggesting that this species is already spread out in the city, and that its presence in Romania could date back to at least 1-2 years ago. Considering the potential serious risk for agriculture in Romania, the necessity to develop a monitoring strategy in field crops for early detection is suggested.

Key words: brown marmorated stink bug, monitoring, invasive
