

AMERICAN WASP *ISODONTIA MEXICANA* (HYMENOPTERA: SPHECIDAE) IN SLOVAKIA

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Abstract: *Isodontia mexicana* is recorded as new genus and species for Slovakia.

***Isodontia mexicana* (Saussure, 1867)**

Material examined: W Slovakia: Šenkvice (48°18'4.53" N, 17°21'39.32" E), 176 m a.s.l., 1♀, 22.7.2015, MT, lgt. Vidlička, Kozánek & Semelbauer, det. M. Semelbauer, and revid. J. Straka. (Fig. 1)

Three species of genus *Isodontia* Patton, 1880 are currently known from Europe (BARBIER 2015). Two native species – *I. paludosa* (Rossi, 1790) and *I. splendidula* (A. Costa, 1858) – and one non-native North American species *I. mexicana*. *I. mexicana* appeared in Europe for the first time in France in the early sixties. Since then it was recorded in number of European countries: Italy (1985), Spain (1986), Switzerland (1989), Slovenia (1990), Croatia (1993), Germany (1997), Hungary (2001), Austria (2003), Belgium (2010) (ČETKOVIĆ et al. 2012) and the Czech republic (2015) (STRAKA et al. 2015). In this context, the presence of the species in Slovakia is not surprising. The species nests in natural cavities, such as hollow branches and stems of common reed and supplies its offspring with medium sized orthopteroid prey, such as tree crickets (e.g. *Oecanthus pellucens*; Gryllidae) and katydids (Tettigoniidae).



Fig. 1. *Isodontia mexicana* (Saussure, 1867) – female from Šenkvice.

Common reed was present at the locality of *I. mexicana*, suggesting reed stems are used as nesting habitat, though the author did not search for nests. Summary of biology and current expansion of *I. mexicana* is given in more detail in ČETKOVIĆ et al. (2012).

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