

## The occurrence of living specimens of *Helicigona lapicida* (L.) in the Netherlands

by

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In 1936 Dr. J. Th. H e n r a r d e n Dr. F. P. K o u m a n s discussed the occurrence of this snail in the Netherlands (*Basteria*, vol. 1 pp. 52—54), concluding that all specimens hitherto found are in a fossil state and that up to that date there were no reliable mentions of living specimens in our country.

About two years later, in 1938, I was able to collect for a long time on several localities in southern Limburg and in the course of that rather long trip I found four living specimens.

In June 1938, collecting amongst ivy (*Hedera Helix*) on a place in the "Onderste Bosch", near Epen, where the calcareous ground reaches daylight, I found several specimens which were in a more or less fossil state, deprived of the periostracum, just as they have been described in the paper by Dr. H e n r a r d e n Dr. K o u m a n s. Among them was a rather young specimen, showing a very good preserved periostracum, for which reason I took it with me. Returning from this excursion I found it to my great surprise creeping amongst its congeners, but as conditions on my trip were rather unfavourable, it died some days later and the snail is now in my collection.

In August of that same year I collected molluscs near Bemelen, where the calcareous slopes and hills have a great reputation for their abundance of curious plants, and that day I found three living specimens of *Helicigona lapicida* (L.). It was a rainy day and the snails were found creeping round on the leaves of ivy, which is very abundant there. They were all adult, showing a perfect development of the periostracum, giving the shell a dark purple-brown, reflecting colour, just like specimens I have seen from the grand duchy of Luxemburg and which were collected in living state. I collected none of the snails I saw that day, but returning some days later, when the weather was dry, I was unable to discover them

again. Nevertheless Mr. H. Odé, who was in the neighbourhood of Bemelen about the same time, told me that he had also found some living specimens of that snail on a same rainy day in August. He also collected no living specimens in the hope that the small number which we were able to find might grow in the course of time. But it is now certain that *Helicigona lapicida* (L.), formerly only found in the form of dead shells, is a living inhabitant of our country. The presence of that snail could be expected in southern Limburg as it was recorded from a number of localities in the surrounding regions.

#### Samenvatting.

In 1936 werd in *Basteria*, Vol. 1, pp. 52—54, door Dr. J. Th. Henrard en Dr. F. P. Koumans opgegeven, dat nog geen levende exemplaren van *Helicigona lapicida* (L.) in Nederland gevonden waren. In 1938 werd tusschen klimop in het „Onderste Bosch” bij Epen tusschen exemplaren, die er min of meer fossiel uitzagen, een vrij jong exemplaar levend verzameld. In Augustus 1938 werden op een regenachtige dag bij Bemelen op klimopbladeren 3 levende exemplaren waargenomen. Eenige dagen later, bij droog weer, konden geen dieren van deze soort meer gevonden worden. Wel vond de Heer H. Odé omstreeks dezelfde tijd op een regenachtige dag levende exemplaren bij Bemelen.

*Helicigona lapicida* (L.) is dus levend in Zuid-Limburg aangetroffen.