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Anthaxia (*Melanthaxia*) *giorgioi* sp. n. from Mt. Etna, Sicily (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract. *Anthaxia* (*Melanthaxia*) *giorgioi* **sp. n.** is described and compared with related species.

Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Anthaxia giorgioi* sp. n., Sicily, Italy

Introduction

The observation of a population of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 from the *Pinus laricio* (Poir.) forests of Mount Etna, Sicily, which differed from the known species (see Magnani & Sparacio 1985, *A. nigrojubata incognita* Bílý, 1974; Curletti 1994, Gobbi & Platia 1995, *A. nigrojubata liae* Gobbi, 1983; Bílý 1986, *A. liae* Gobbi, 1983), allowed the author to recognize and describe a new species.

Anthaxia (*Melanthaxia*) *giorgioi* sp. n.

(Figs 2, 4, 8, 12, 16)

Type locality. S Italy, Sicily, Mt. Etna, Pineta di Linguaglossa, 1400 m.

Type specimens. Holotype (♂): "Sicily (CT), M.te Etna, Pineta di Linguaglossa, 1400 m, 26.vi.1984, legit I. Sparacio". Allotype (♀): the same data as holotype. Paratypes (32 ♂♂, 38 ♀♀): the same data as holotype and allotype (10 ♂♂, 9 ♀♀); "Sicily (CT), M.te Etna, Adrano, M.te Albano, 21.vi.1988, legit I. Sparacio" (12 ♂♂, 18 ♀♀); "Sicily (CT), M.te Etna, Pineta di Linguaglossa, 1400 m, 5.vii.2001, legit I. Sparacio" (8 ♂♂; 11 ♀♀); "Sicily (CT), M.te Etna, Randazzo, M.te S. Maria, 6.vii.2001, legit I. Sparacio" (2 ♂♂). Type deposition. Holotype and allotype deposited in collection of I. Sparacio (Palermo), paratypes in the collections of the National Museum Prague, P. Svoboda (Soběslav), D. Baiocchi and A. Liberto (Rome), P. Crovato and F. Izzillo (Naples), G. Curletti (Carmagnola), D. Gianasso (Castelnuovo Don Bosco), G. Magnani (Cesena) and the author.

Specimens studied. *Anthaxia liae* Gobbi, 1983: Calabria (RC), P. di Aspromonte, *Pinus laricio*, 28.vii., F. Marozzini leg. (1 ♂, 1 ♀, types); Calabria (CS), Sila, Lago Cecita, 17.viii.1988, N. Liantonio leg. (1 ♂, 1 ♀); Calabria (CS), Sila, La Fossiata, 10.viii.1990, F. Izzillo leg. (3 ♂♂); Calabria (CS), Sila, Lorica, 3.viii.1988, F. Izzillo leg. (1 ♀); Calabria (CS), Sila, Lago Arvo, 7.vii.1983, I. Sparacio leg. (3 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀); Calabria (CS), Sila, Lago Cecita, 6.viii.1999, I. Sparacio leg. (13 ♂♂, 15 ♀♀); Basilicata (PZ), Cugno Acero, 16.vi.1995, F. Izzillo leg. (1 ♂, 1 ♀); Campania (NA), Mt. Faito, v.1997, P. Crovato leg. (2 ♂♂); Campania (NA), Mt. Faito, 16.vi.1991, F. Izzillo leg. (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀).

Description. Medium size, length 5.10-7.25 mm, bronze, rarely with green, dark and blue reflections on front and lateral margins of pronotum; ventral side of body green; pubescence of dorsal side short and black, ventral side with short, recumbent and not very dense white pubescence (Fig. 2).

Head with ocellate structure made of dense rounded cells with large central grains; frons slightly vaulted; vertex narrow, about 1.1 times as wide as width of eye; antennae (Fig. 4) about 1.3 times longer than length of pronotum, third antennomere distinctly longer than the fourth, 4-10 serrate, apical antennomere twice as long as wide.

Pronotum transverse, 1.6-1.8 times as wide as long, with distinct laterobasal depressions, anterior pronotal margin slightly lobate medially, posterior margin bisinuate, lateral margins moderately and regularly rounded, maximum pronotal width about at middle; pronotal sculpture consisting of a network of well developed rounded and polygonal cells with large central grains; cells in middle part of posterior half of pronotum more irregular, transversely prolonged, in the anterior half forming irregular rows.

Scutellum triangular, with straight lateral margins, almost as long as wide, microsculptured.

Elytra wide, 1.6-1.7 times as long as wide at opposite humeri, with irregular, granulose surface, basal transverse depressions well developed; humeral swellings not projecting beyond outline of elytra; elytral apex with fine lateral serration; elytral epipleuras narrow not reaching elytral apex.

Legs relatively short and stout, meso- and metatrochanters with long, large spine on posterior margin; meso- and metatibiae rectilinear, sometimes slightly incurved on inner margin, not expanded apically, finely serrate on apical half of inner margin (Figs 8, 12).

Anal sternite rounded apically with lateral and pre-apical serration, microsculptured.

Aedeagus long and slender, lancet-shaped (Fig. 16), parameres slightly arched laterally, with preapical bristles.

Length: 5.10-7.25 mm (holotype 5.80 mm); width: 2.00-3.10 mm (holotype 2.30 mm).

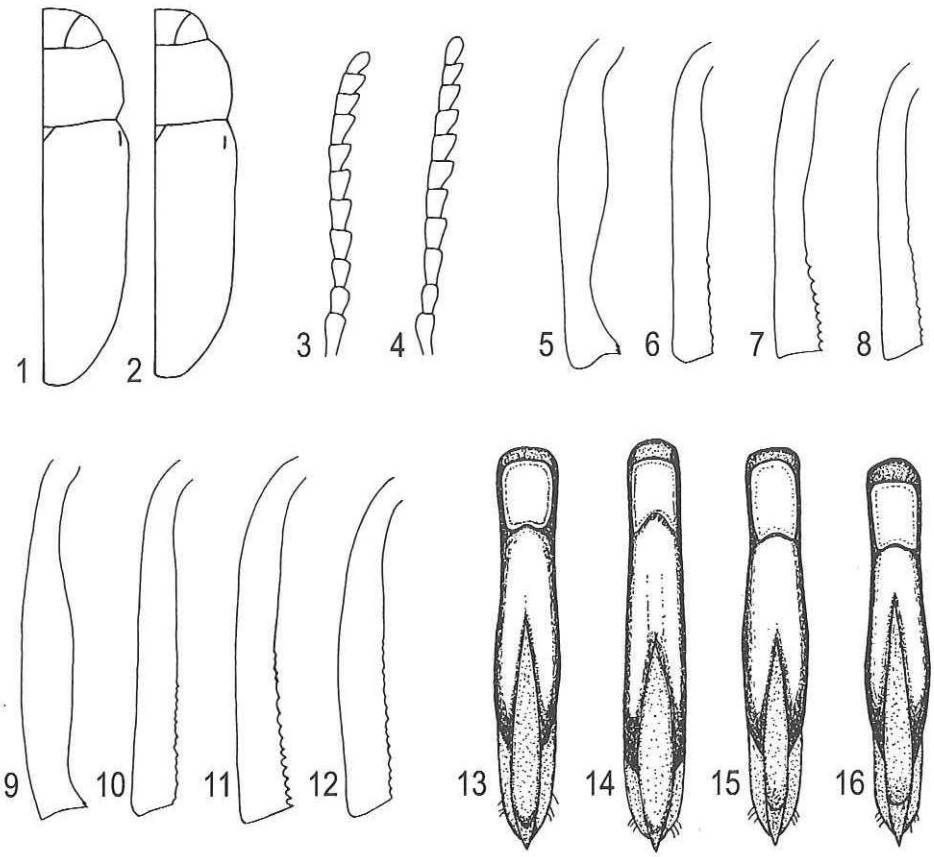
Distribution. Italy: Sicily (Mt. Etna).

Sexual dimorphism. Females differ from males by larger size and simple tibiae.

Bionomy. *A. giorgioi* sp. n. has been collected on the flowers of small Asteraceae in *Pinus laricio* forest, with some specimens collected on dead branches of *P. laricio.*

Name derivation. Dedicated to my son Giorgio.

Differential diagnosis. *A. giorgioi* sp. n. is similar to *A. liae* of Southern Italy from which it differs by the body shape (in *A. liae* lateral pronotal margins are more narrower in anterior third, humeri are more developed, elytra more narrow in apical half – Figs 1-2), by the shape of antennae (particularly the third segment –



Figs 1-16. 1 – outline of *A. liae* Gobbi; 2 – the same of *A. giorgioi* **sp. n.**; 3 – antenna of *A. liae*; 4 – the same of *A. giorgioi* **sp. n.**; 5 – male mesotibia of *A. sturanyi* Obenberger; 6 – the same of *A. nigrojubata incognita* Bílý; 7 – the same of *A. liae*; 8 – the same of *A. giorgioi* **sp. n.**; 9 – male metatibia of *A. sturanyi*; 10 – the same of *A. nigrojubata incognita*; 11 – the same of *A. liae*; 12 – the same of *A. giorgioi* **sp. n.**; 13 – aedeagus of *A. sturanyi*; 14 – the same of *A. nigrojubata incognita*; 15 – the same of *A. liae*; 16 – the same of *A. giorgioi* **sp. n.**

Figs 3-4), by male meso- and metatibiae (in *A. liae* they are incurved on inner margin and with bigger serration – Figs 7-8, 11-12) and the shape of aedeagus (Figs 15-16).

The affinity of *A. giorgioi* sp. n. and *A. liae* with the other *Melanthaxia* Rikhter, 1945 are in the *A. nigrojubata* Roubal, 1913 species-group (Bílý 1974), particularly with *A. nigrojubata incognita* Bílý, 1974, or, more probably (Gobbi 1983), with *A. sturanyi* Obenberger, 1914 species-group (Bílý 1986) (Figs 5-6, 9-10, 13-14).

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