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First record of *Vadonia saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855) (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Bulgaria

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Abstract. Single male and single female specimens of *Vadonia saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855), collected from Yambol (SE Bulgaria), were identified in examination of material from collection of the National Museum of Natural History in Sofia. The species is reported for the first time for the country.

Key words: Cerambycidae, *Vadonia saucia*, Bulgaria.

Introduction

Four taxa from genus *Vadonia* Mulsant, 1863 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) are certainly known from Bulgaria: *V. dojranensis dojranensis* Holzschuh, 1984, *V. grandicollis grandicollis* Mulsant & Rey, 1863, *V. moesiaca* (K. Daniel & J. Daniel, 1891) and *V. unipunctata unipunctata* (Fabricius, 1787) (Migliaccio *et al.* 2007; Danilevsky 2017).

When examination the Cerambycidae collection of National Museum of Natural History in Sofia (NMNHS), two unidentified specimens of *Vadonia*, collected in 1959 from Yambol (SE Bulgaria) are found. The specimens were identified by the author as *Vadonia saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855). In the present paper the species is reported for the first time for Bulgaria.

Results and Discussion

***Vadonia saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855)** (Fig. 1)

Material examined: Yambol (in Cyrillic), 21.5.[19]59, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, [collector unknown], D. Gradinarov det. (NMNHS).

Vadonia saucia was described from Crimean Peninsula based on unicoloured black specimens and subsequently was misinterpreted as a melanistic form of *V. bipunctata* (Fabricius, 1781) (after Danilevsky 2009: 696). The species was revalidated by Danilevsky in 2009 after reexamined the specimens from the type series of *V. bipunctata mulsantiana* (Plavilstshikov, 1936) (Danilevsky 2009: 696).

The examined specimens from the Yambol town area in appearance and color are similar to common form of *V. unipunctata unipunctata* (Fig. 1A, B). The spines of the hind tibiae of the male specimen are paired. The reliable identification of *V. saucia* is possible only by morphology of the male genitalia (Fig. 1C, D, E) (Danilevsky 2009: 696; 2014a: 262-263; 2014b: 241). Arrow-like penis apex with sharply pronounced lateral edges is the most peculiar character of the species (Fig. 1 D). Parameres are less widened than in *V. unipunctata* (Fig. 1 E).

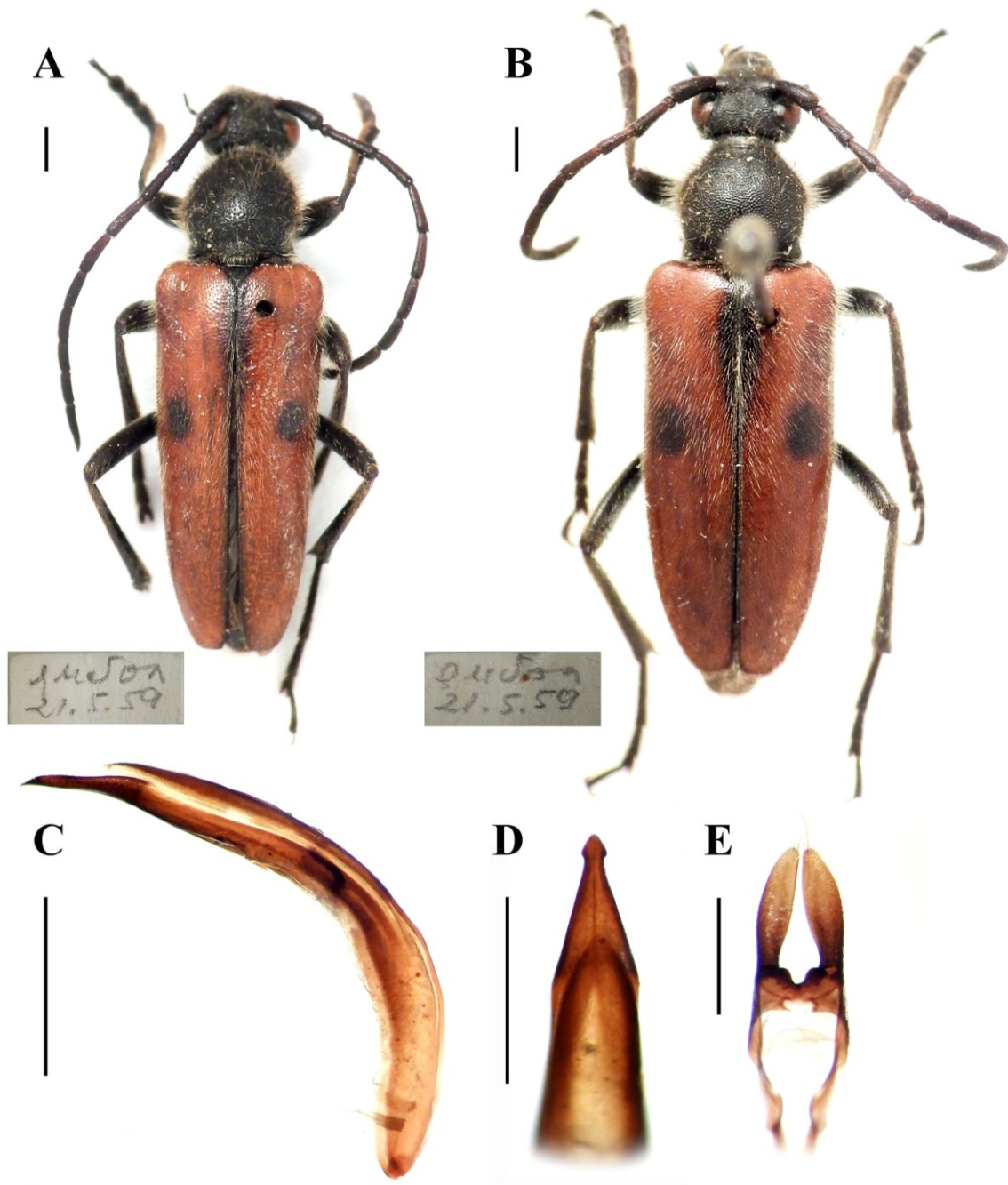


Fig. 1. *Vadonia saucia* from Yambol, Bulgaria. A: Male; B: Female; C: penis lateral view; D: penis apex; E: parameres; Scale bars: 1 mm.

Until now *V. saucia* was known from a number of localities along the southern coast of the Crimean Peninsula (Danilevsky 2014b: 241) and from Romanian Dobrudzha (Serafim 2006: 230, as *V. hirsuta* (K. Daniel & J. Daniel, 1891); Danilevsky 2014a: 262-263). In Crimea totally black forms are common, but rather rare in the Romanian population (Danilevsky 2014a: 263).

The present record extends substantially the known range of *V. saucia* to the south. It is possible that the species is even more widespread in the region. It is not unlikely that the report of a closely related species *V. insidiosa* Holzschuh, 1984 from Fruška Gora, Serbia (Pil & Stojanović 2007: 41), later considered doubtful (Ilić & Čurčić 2015: 23), to actually concerns *V. saucia*.

Collection of new specimens of the species in Bulgaria, as well as investigation of the population for the presence of black forms is desirable.

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