

Phytoecia natali sp. n. – a new species of longicorn beetle from the Caucasus (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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Phytoecia natali sp. n., related to *Ph. iranica* Villiers, 1960, is described from a male found in Azerbaijan.

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In the course of the Zoological Institute expedition to Azerbaijan in 1988 I found a new species of the cerambycid genus *Phytoecia* Muls., described below.

Phytoecia (*Helladia*) *natali* sp. n. (Figs 1-2)

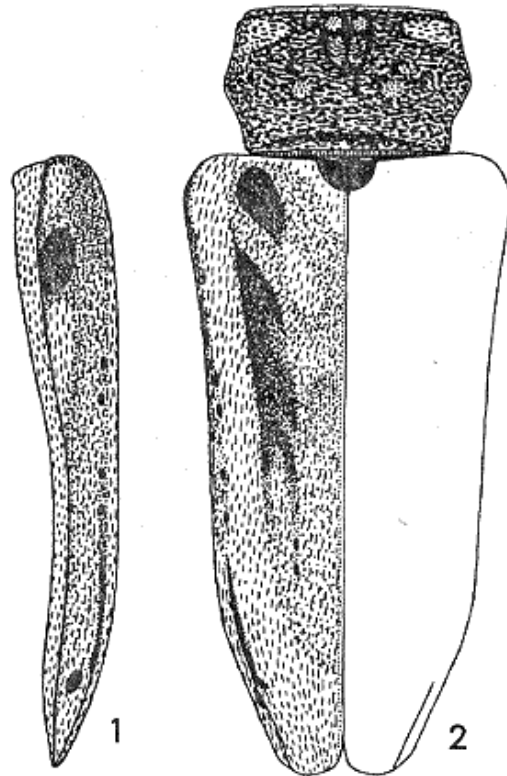
Holotype. ♂, Azerbaijan, eastern spurs of the Kaitar-Kodzha Range (Caucasus Major), 14 km W of Kilyazi, 6.V.1988 (A. Lobanov), in the collection of the Zoological Institute, St.Petersburg.

Description. Head large, slightly narrower than prothorax, black. Pubescence pale and sparse, densely covering only bases of mandibles, genae, clypeus, and a narrow space around eyes; as on the whole of body, it is composed of small, dark grey, adpressed hairs and sparse, long, light brown, erect setae. Frons and vertex with double even punctation; diameter of large punctures 5-6 times that of small punctures. Narrow median line running from nearly the very base of clypeus deepens into a sulcus on vertex.

Antennae reaching apical quarter of elytra, dark, with pale pubescence, which is sparse on basal segments and dense, covering the sculpture of antennae from apical half of 4th segment.

Prothorax 1.55 times as broad as long, with obtuse lateral tubercles somewhat shifted basally, with double punctation, 4 round callosities situated as in *Ph. armeniaca* Friv. and *Ph. iranica* Villiers, and with a weak median keel near base. Median callosities convex, without

small punctures; lateral callosities flat, impunctate. Colour of prothorax black with vague yellowish red spots on sides (large spot before lateral tubercle and a very small one behind that) and with 4 rounded red spots on disc (two confluent spots along median line at front margin, and two spots behind median callosities).



Figs 1-2. *Phytoecia* (*Helladia*) *natali* sp. n. 1, left elytron, lateral view; 2, prothorax and elytra.

Disc nearly bare, its sides with pale pubescence becoming denser around lateral tubercles. Front margin straight, distinctly bordered throughout; hind margin straight, with a distinct sharp keel along the entire base.

Scutellum broadly rounded posteriorly, black, nearly bare.

Elytra evenly tapering backwards, with nearly rounded apices and noticeable longitudinal carinae near them, most of their surface with uniform and moderately dense punctation, hidden to a certain extent by uniform pubescence.

Colour pattern of elytral cuticle seen through pubescence, consisting of two dark longitudinal stripes, the humeral and discal ones, separated by a yellowish red stripe. Epipleura, narrow stripe at elytral base, narrow area around scutellum, and oblique spot in anterior part of the dark discal stripe dull red. Dark humeral stripe running from the shoulder along side of elytron, weakening and becoming obsolete towards elytral apex, becoming sinuate externally in second quarter of elytron (behind black ovate hairy spot) where the red lateral stripe expands on disc. Dark discal stripe wider than the humeral one, roundly narrowed backwards and terminating near suture at about one fifth way to apex of elytron.

Black pubescence forms distinct and ill-defined spots and stripes on black parts of elytra. Lateral part of dark discal stripe with rounded black hairy spot anteriorly and a black longitudinal hairy stripe behind it, the latter gradually becoming paler backwards and splitting into 2 parallel narrower stripes. Inner part of the dark discal stripe with diffused hairy longitudinal spot in the middle part of elytra. Two distinct small rounded hairy markings situated behind the end of the inner narrow part of the discal stripe at the level of the boundary between the middle and posterior thirds of elytra. Another pair of small hairy markings present in anterior third of elytra, and one more pair slightly behind their middle. Posterior to the second pair of markings a longitudinal hairy

stripe begins, terminating at the level of the apical rounding of elytron. Postero-laterally to this stripe a dark rounded hairy spot, slightly larger than the preceding ones, is present. Large and very distinctly outlined oval longitudinal black hairy spot touching the epipleura and almost invisible from above occupies sides of elytra near base.

Legs black except for the dark reddish brown middle part of tibiae, with moderately dense white pubescence. Outer surface of middle tibiae sinuate and densely pubescent in apical third. Hind tibiae not sinuate apically.

Ventral body surface black with white pubescence of short adpressed and long erect hairs.

Length of body 11 mm, length of elytra 7.8 mm, width of elytra at shoulders 3.9 mm, length of prothorax 1.9 mm, width of prothorax 3 mm, length of antennae 9.4 mm.

Female unknown. The unique male specimen was found on the ground among sparse herbal vegetation in arid foothill landscape.

Etymology. I dedicate this species to the blessed memory of Natalia Lobanova, a wonderful woman and my wife.

Comparison. Closely related to *Ph. (Helladia) iranica* Villiers, 1960, described from Iranian Kurdistan (Villiers, 1960), but differing in the shape, coloration, and sparser pubescence of prothorax, in the elytral pattern, nearly rounded apices of elytra, dark femora, and non-sinuate apically outer edge of hind tibiae. The low variability of coloration of legs and elytra in the species of the subgenus *Helladia* Fairm. confirms the distinctness of the new species.

References

- Villiers, A. 1960. Une nouvelle *Phytoecia* paléarctique: *Helladia iranica* n. sp. *L'Entomologiste*, 16(5/6): 99-102.

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