

REICHENBACHIA

Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde Dresden

Band 29

Ausgegeben: 1. Juni 1992

Nr. 14

A new ant-lion from Turkmenia, Middle Asia

(*Insecta, Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae*)

With 5 Figures

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Abstract. *Myrmecaelurus badkhsyi* sp. n. is described. The new species is characterized by the pattern of both wings and pronotum, as well as by its genital conformation.

The genus *Myrmecaelurus* COSTA, 1855 includes three subgenera, *Myrmecaelurus* s. str., *Nohoveus* NAVÁS, 1919, and *Aspoecckina* HÖLZEL, 1972, with about 50 species from Europe, Asia and Africa.

Among the specimens of the type series of the new species described here, there are several which have series of gradate veins in the apical field of the hind wings, whilst the others have none. Therefore, I can assign the new form neither to *Myrmecaelurus* s. str. nor to *Nohoveus* known to differ by that character.

Holotype and several paratypes have been housed at the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, two paratypes at the Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde in Stuttgart. Before going further, I wish to acknowledge the help of Dr. W. Schawaller (Stuttgart) in the publication of this article, while Dr. S. I. Golovatch kindly checked the English of the final draft.

Myrmecaelurus badkhsyi sp. n. (Figs. 1-5)

Material Holotype ♂, paratypes 11 ♂♂, 11 ♀♀; Turkmenia, Badkhyz State Reserve, Kyzyltdjar, steppe, 25.-26. VIII. 1990, leg. V. Krivokhatshy (some paratypes taken on light); 1 ♀, Transcaspica, (18)98, leg. K. Ahnger.

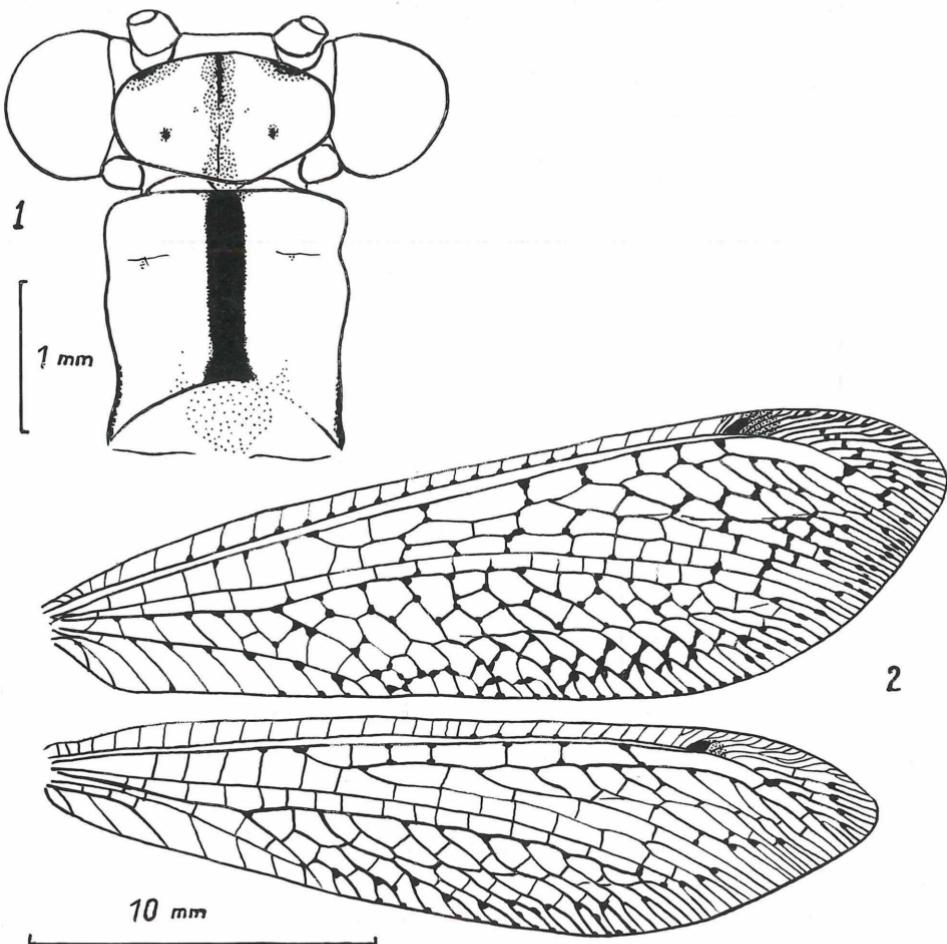
Holotype Yellow head with convex vertex; two brown spots above antennae, brown midline along frons and vertex with two small points from each side (Fig. 1). Antennae brown, only scapus yellow. Palpi yellow, apical joint of labial palp with a blackish sensory pit. Pronotum longer than wide, yellow, with a broad, black-brown, longitudinal stripe and two slender streaks in hind parts of pronotal margins (Fig. 1). Meso- and metanotum yellow, with three black-brown interrupted lines each.

Legs yellow, with pale and dark setae and hairs; bases of coxae brownish. Spurs pale, slightly curved, strong, as long as tarsomeres 1 and 2 combined.

Wings broad, membrane pointed dark yellow, hyaline (Fig. 2). Longitudinal veins alternately dark and pale all along, only MP₁, CuA and A_{1,3} on hind wings uniformly pale. Fore wing with six and hind wing with four presectoral crossveins; inner cubital field on fore wings with a few supplementary veins. A few scalaris crossveins in apical field of hind wings. All Banksian lines expressed; distal part of pterostigma brown, apical part yellow, pterostigma of hind wings incomplete.

Abdomen shorter than wings, with pale hairs; yellow tergites with three dark brown lines, one dorsal and two lateral; dark brown sternites with yellow triangular spots in apical part of each sternum. A pair of pleuritosquamae on segments 5 and 6. Ectoproct short, apex of male abdomen, gonarcus and parameres, as well as apex of female abdomen (paratype) as in Figs. 3-5.

Paratypes All like holotype in coloration, but vary in size:



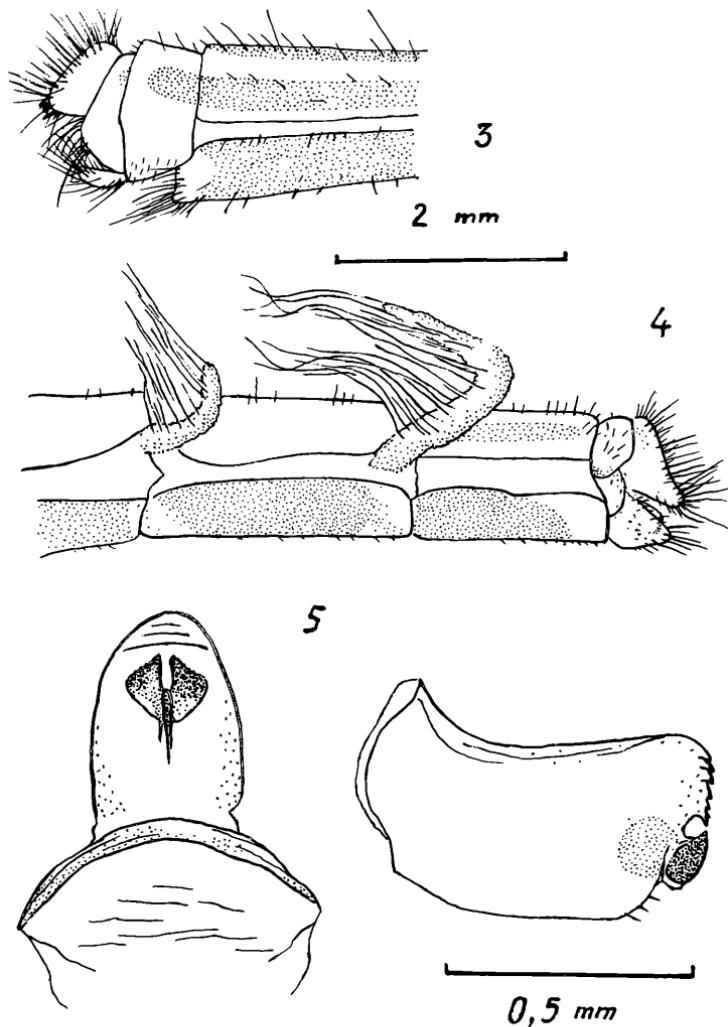
Figs. 1-2: *Myrmecaelurus badkhsyi* sp. n. 1: head and pronotum, 2: wings.

Holotype		Paratypes	
	♂	♂ ♂	♀ ♀
FW	27.0	24.0-28.5	24.0-30.0 mm
HW	24.0	22.5-25.0	22.5-26.5 mm
Abd.	20.0	19.0-21.0	17.5-22.0 mm

Some paratypes lack series of gradate crossveins in the apical field of the hind wings, some without supplementary veins in the inner cubital field of the fore wings. Fore wings of paratypes with 5-7, hind wings of paratypes with 3-4 presectoral crossveins.

Remarks: All the Badkhyz specimens were collected either after frightening-off from the grass before sunset or on light in the same place at night.

The new species occupies a position as if intermediate between *Myrmecaelurus* s. str. and *Nohoveus*, being unique in this respect. The same position occupies, however, *Myrmecaelurus varians* NAVÁS,



Figs. 3-5: *Myrmecaelurus badkhyi* sp. n. 3: apex of abdomen, ♀ - 4: apex of abdomen, ♂ - 5: gonarcus and parameres ♂, dorsal and lateral view.

1913, from Middle Asia, Iran, and Afghanistan, which is similar to the new species by its gonarcus-paramere complex structure, and absence of the series of gradate veins in the apical field of the hind wings in the part of specimens. But *M. varians* has no dark points at the wings and it differs from *M. badkhyi* by pronotal marks.

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(Received on 11. II. 1991)

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Reichenbachia](#)

Jahr/Year: 1992

Band/Volume: [29](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s): Krivokhatsky Viktor A.

Artikel/Article: [A new ant-lion from Turkmenia, Middle Asia \(Insecta, Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae\) 77-80](#)