

***Anthaxia* (s.str.) *gansuensis* sp. n. from China
(Coleoptera, Buprestidae)**

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Among Buprestids collected in China in 1990 by many collectors I have found a new species of *Anthaxia* from the *A. plicata* species-group. This new species is most related to *A. reitteri* OBNB. and *A. holoptera* OBNB. and is compared with all species of *A. plicata* species-group from Central Asia. *A. zarudniana* RICHTER belonging also to this group is synonymized with *A. auriventris* BALLION.

Anthaxia (s.str.) *gansuensis* sp. n.

(Figs. 1-3)

Medium-sized, dark bronze species; anterior part of frons and ventral side of male with golden-green lustre, female completely dark bronze; frons, pronotum and ventral side with rather long, white pubescence, elytra with brown pubescence.

Head rather large, frons with indistinct medial depression, vertex flat; structure of head consisting of oval and polygonal cells with large, flat and indistinct central grains; anterior margin of clypeus slightly incurved; eyes large but not projecting beyond outline of head, their inner margins distinctly S-shaped and strongly converged towards the vertex; vertex 1.2-1.3 times as wide as width of eye with indistinct medial keel; antennae rather long, nearly reaching posterior pronotal angles; antennal segments 4-10 triangular, last antennal segment of both sexes almost elliptical (Fig. 3).

Pronotum rather flat, 1.9-2.0 times as wide as long with wide laterobasal depressions; anterior pronotal margin with large medial lobe, posterior margin slightly bisinuous; lateral pronotal margins widely rounded in anterior half and straight or slightly incurved in posterior half; the widest part of pronotum at anterior third; pronotum with large, flat, medial depression in posterior part; pronotal structure consisting of small, oval and polygonal cells with distinct central grains laterally and fine grains anteriorly; postmedial pronotal depression with fine, prolonged wrinkles which are obliquely bent laterally of this depression towards to posterior pronotal angles which are almost rectangular. Scutellum large, semielliptical, slightly vaulted.

Elytra slightly vaulted, distinctly uneven and feebly enlarged at posterior third, 1.8 times as long as wide at humeral part; whole elytra distinctly margined laterally, with feeble lateral, preapical serration; elytral epipleuras wide but not reaching; elytral apex, tips of elytra rounded separately; elytra rather lustrous with dense, irregular and superficial punctures and with fine asperities along the lateral margin; humeral, elytral swellings well-developed, basal elytral grooves narrow but deep, nearly reaching scutellum.

Prosternum rugose, abdominal segments lustrous with fine and sparse punctures. Anal segment of both sexes rounded without or with indistinct lateral serration. Legs long and slender, meso- and metatibiae of male straight, with fine, inner serration. Claws long and slender, regularly arched.

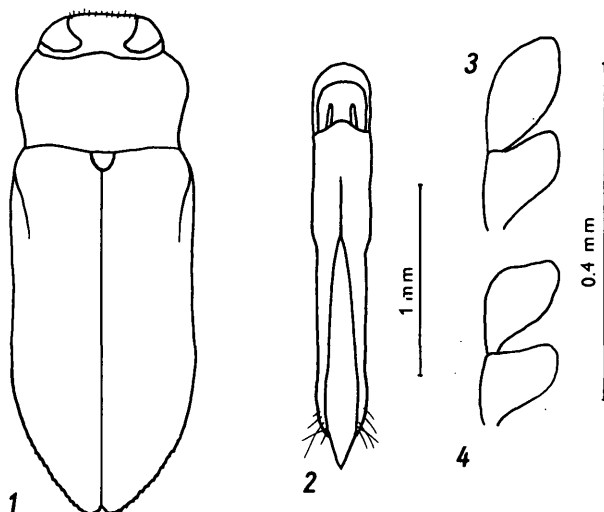


Fig. 1 – outline of *Anthaxia* (s.str.) *gansuensis* sp.n., holotype, 5.4 mm. Fig. 2 – the same, aedeagus. Fig. 3 – last antennal segment of *A. gansuensis* sp.n. Fig. 4 – the same, *A. reitteri* OB NB.

Aedeagus (Fig. 2) long, slender and cylindrical, parameres narrowed in apical two thirds. Length: 4.7 - 6.0 mm (holotype 5.4 mm); width: 2.0 - 2.8 mm (holotype 2.2 mm).

Sexual dimorphism: female differs from male by concolourous, dark bronze body and simple meso- and metatibiae which are distinctly serrate on inner margin in male.

Holotype (♂): China, Gansu reg., Xiahe, 17.-18.7.1990, Hubicka leg. (National Museum Prague). Allotype (♀): the same data (National Museum, Prague). Paratypes: 9 ♂♂, 3 ♀♀, the same data; 1 ♂, 2 ♀♀, China, Sichuan, 8.-13.6.1990, Abazhou, Nanping, Jiuzhaigou, 33,15 N/104,15 E, 2000 m; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, China, Sichuan, 15.-18.6.1990, Nanping, Ta Zang, 33,15 N/104,15 E. 2200 m. Paratypes in coll. Bilý (Prague), Hubicka (Prague), Kuban (Brno) and Novak (Vienna).

Anthaxia (s.str.) *gansuensis* sp.n. belongs to the *A. plicata* species-group and it differs from other species of this group from Central Asia by the following characters:

- 1 (4) Vertex wide, 1.6 - 1.9 times as wide as width of eye; last antennal segment elliptical.
- 2 (3) Eyes not projecting beyond outline of head; pubescence of head somewhat shorter than 1st antennal segment; elytral pubescence normal, not lanuginose; lateral pronotal margins incurved before posterior angles (pronotum often almost cordiform); pronotal structure rugose, rather indistinct and almost homogenous, always without fine, transverse wrinkles; aedeagus (Fig. 8) with very narrow parameres; C Asia; 5.0 - 8.0 mm *A. auriventris* BALLION
- 3 (2) Eyes large, slightly projecting beyond outline of head; pubescence of head very long, as long as antennal segments 1+2 together; elytral pubescence also very long, lanuginose; lateral pronotal margins straight or very slightly incurved before posterior angles; pronotum with fine, transverse or somewhat waved wrinkles laterally of medial depression; lateral parts of pronotum with polygonal cells with distinct central grains; aedeagus (Fig. 6) with more robust parameres; C Asia; 4.4 - 6.0 mm *A. plavilschikovi* OBENBERGER
- 4 (1) Vertex narrow, only 1.0 - 1.2 times as wide as width of eye; last antennal segment either elliptical or triangular.

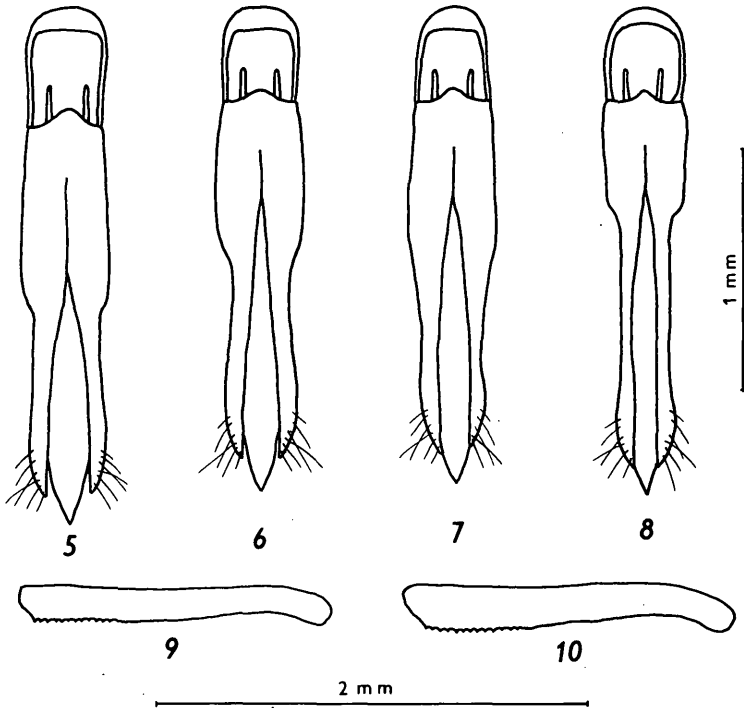


Fig. 5 – aedeagus of *Anthaxia reitteri* OBNB. Fig. 6 – aedeagus of *A. plavilshikovi* OBNB. Fig. 7 – aedeagus of *A. holoptera* OBNB. Fig. 8 – aedeagus of *A. auriventris* BALL. Fig. 9 – male metatibia of *A. reitteri* OBNB. Fig. 10 – male metatibia of *A. holoptera* OBNB.

- 5 (6) Pubescence of head shorter than 1st antennal segment, elytral pubescence short and dark; pronotum 1.9-2.0 times as wide as long; pronotal structure rough, consisting of prolonged polygonal cells with central grains laterally and oblique wrinkles laterally of medial depression; eyes smaller, not projecting beyond outline of head; elytra margined with distinct groove from humeral part to apex; aedeagus subcylindrical and slender (Fig. 2); dark bronze species; China; 4.7-6.0 mm . . . *A. gansuensis* sp. n.
- 6 (5) Pubescence of head long, longer than 1st antennal segment, elytral pubescence very long, almost lanuginose, white; pronotum 1.7-1.8 times as wide as long; pronotum with fine and lustrous, transverse or concentric wrinkles laterally of medial depression and with rounded cells with distinct central grains laterally; eyes large, projecting outline of head; elytra without lateral groove; aedeagus more robust (Figs. 5, 7); bronze and lustrous species with reddish-purple vertex and lateral pronotal margins; C Asia.
- 7 (8) Pronotum with concentric wrinkles laterally of medial depression; last antennal segment triangular in both sexes (Fig. 4); hind tibiae of male subparallel (Fig. 9); aedeagus (Fig. 5) subparallel; C Asia; 5.5-7.8 mm *A. reitteri* OBNBERGER
- 8 (7) Pronotum with fine, transverse wrinkles laterally of medial depression; last antennal segment elliptical (like in *A. gansuensis* sp. n. – Fig. 3) in both sexes; hind tibiae of male slightly enlarged apically (Fig. 10); aedeagus almost spindle shaped (Fig. 7); Kopet Dag, S Tadjikistan; 6.3-8.0 mm *A. holoptera* OBNBERGER

Anthaxia (s. str.) *auriventris* BALLION, 1871

Anthaxia auriventris BALLION, 1871: 350.

Anthaxia tomyris OBENBERGER, 1913: 333.

Anthaxia alexandri OBENBERGER, 1938: 215-216.

Anthaxia zarudniana RICHTER, 1945: 69, syn. n.

RICHTER (1949) included erroneously this species into subgen. *Melanthaxia* although it belongs to subgen. *Anthaxia* (s. str.) accordingly to its pubescence, pronotal structure, form of male metatibiae and form of aedeagus. He justifiably synonymized both OBENBERGER's species (both types deposited in the National Museum, Prague) with *A. auriventris*. After having studied both OBENBERGER's types I found they are only forms of *A. auriventris* with almost cordiform pronotum. Having also studied all syntypes of *A. zarudniana* RICHTER (deposited in the Zoological Institute, Leningrad) and compared them with many specimens of *A. auriventris* (determined and compared with holotype by Richter) I consider *A. zarudniana* RICHTER to be conspecific with *A. auriventris* BALLION and a junior synonym. The holotype of *A. auriventris* has been probably destroyed.

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