

Two new subspecies of *Agapanthia dahli* (Richter, 1821) from Dagestan and Armenia (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

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Abstract: *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani*, **ssp. n.** is described from South Armenia (Megri district), *Agapanthia dahli ismailovae*, **ssp. n.** is described from Dagestan and North Azerbaijan. *Agapanthia dahli walteri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, **new rank**, *A. d. muellneri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. alexandris* Pic, 1901, **new rank**, *A. d. persica* Semenov, 1893, **new rank** and *A. d. transcaspica* Pic, 1900, **new rank** are downgraded from species level.

INTRODUCTION

The distinguishing characters between 7 taxa generally accepted as species - *Agapanthia dahli* (Richter, 1821) *A. walteri* Reitter, 1898, *A. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, *A. muellneri* Reitter, 1898, *A. alexandris* Pic, 1901, *A. persica* Semenov, 1893 and *A. transcaspica* Pic, 1900 – are only limited by the characters (densety, color, length, size and shape of elytral patches). All 7 are vicariants and each two can never occur in one locality, but food plants are about the same in all seven.

Several early attempts to regard certain names as synonyms (*A. muellneri* and *A. alexandris* by Plavilstshikov, 1968; or *A. persica* and *A. transcaspica* by Shapovalov, 2009) can not be accepted. Many synonyms proposed by Kostin (1978) in *Agapanthia* were also unacceptable.

All of them are admitted here as subspecies: *Agapanthia dahli walteri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, **new rank**, *A. d. muellneri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. alexandris* Pic, 1901, **new rank**, *A. d. persica* Semenov, 1893, **new rank** and *A. d. transcaspica* Pic, 1900, **new rank**

In fact many well known populations of *A. dahli*-complex are much more peculiar than taxa mentioned above. Two of them are described bellow as new subspecies, while others (from Aktyubinsk

area, from Gissar Ridge, Zaisan depression and Altay Mountains system need further investigation.

The taxons of *A. dahli*-complex are widely distributed all over Caucasus. The Central Transcaucasia are occupied by *A. d. walteri* with a transition to *A. d. dahli* in West Georgia and North-East Caucasus. The Transcaucasian area in Georgia northwards Armenian *A. d. walteri* (Gori, Tbilisi, Lagodekhi, Vashlovani) belongs to *A. d. nitidipennis*. The populations of *A. dahli* from Dagestan with neighbor areas of North Azerbaijan and from South Armenia (Megri and Goris districts) with neighbor areas of South Azerbaijan are similar to *A. d. nitidipennis* because of grey humeral stripes in the most of specimens, but differs by very dense dorsal pubescence and strongly distant from each other. Both areas contain own well pronounced subspecies.

***Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n.**

(Figs 1-2)

Type locality. South Armenia, Megri District, mountains above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m.

Diagnosis. Body black with numerous erect black setae; moderately long; head with dense yellow pubescence, condensed between antennae bases; genae about as long as lower eye lobes, densely covered with yellow pubescence; eyes a little convex, about flat, with deep notch; the distance between upper eye lobes is about 1.5-2 mm, the length of frons from 1.3 to 1.9mm; antennae thin, 1st and 2nd joints black, other joints red basally and black distally; reaching beyond elytral apices with 5 joints in males and 3 joints in females; red antennal areas with white recumbent pubescence; 3rd antennal joint with distinct setae tuft; other joints with more or less numerous semierect setae; prothorax transverse, its width anteriorly: 1.3-2.3 mm, posteriorly: 2.2-3.0 mm; its maximal width behind middle: 2.5-3.4 mm, prothorax length: 2.5-2.7 mm; pronotal punctation consists of distinct big dots with fine punctures in between; elytra with scattered spots of yellow pubescence which can be more or less numerous; humeri usually with distinct wide stripe of very fine grey pubescence, which can be sometimes poorly developed or indistinct;

elytral length: 8.1-12.1 mm, width: 2.5-4.9 mm, elytra about 2 times wider than long; femora and tibiae with fine punctation, covered by dense pale pubescence; body length in males: 11.3-16.5 mm, width: 2.5-4.4 mm; body length in females: 12.8-19.5 mm; width: 2.9-4.9 mm.

Remark. *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* **ssp. n.** easily differs from *A. d. walteri* Reitter, 1898 by the presence of grey humeral stripe, besides elytral spots of dense yellow setae less concentrated, diffused. Similar grey humeral elytral strip is also known in *A. d. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, which is strongly distant (distributed in East Georgia) and characterized by very sparse elytral pubescence.

Distribution. Three localities are known in South Armenia: Megri district above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m. and 38°57'14"N, 46°22'41"E, 900 m; Lichk above Megri; Goris environs, Tekh, 39°34'6"N, 46°25'52"E, 1600 m; and two in South Azerbaijan: Zangelan environs, 39°4'16"N, 46°36'44"E, 590 m.; Kubatly environs, 39°22'11"N, 46°34'50"E, 690 m.

Material. Holotype, 1 male, "Armenia, above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m., 5-6.5.2013, A.Rubenyan" - collection of M.L. Danilevsky (Moscow); 38 paratypes (collection of M.L. Danilevsky): 15 males, 15 females, Armenia, above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m., 05-06.05.2013, A.Rubenyan; 2 males, Armenia, Shvanidzor, 38°57'14"N, 46°22'41"E, 900 m., 05.05.2013, A.Rubenyan; 1 male, Armenia, Tekh, 39°34'6"N, 46°25'52"E, 1600 m., 03.05.2013, A.Rubenyan; 1 male, Azerbaijan, 2 km N Kubatly, 39°22'11"N, 46°34'50"E, 690 m., 06.05.2013, A.Rubenyan; 1 female, Azerbaijan, Zangelan, 39°4'16"N, 46°36'44"E, 590 m., 05.05.2013, A.Rubenyan; 1 male and 1 female, Armenia, Lichk, 1.7.1986, O. Gorbunov leg.; 1 male, 4-8 km N Shvanidzor, 19-24.5.2005, Karagyan leg.

Dedication. The new taxon is dedicated to a well known experienced insect collector Artem Rubenyan (Moscow) who collected the most part of the type series.

Agapanthia dahli ismailovae ssp. n.

(Figs 3-4)

Type locality. North Cucasus, Dagestan, Rutul env.

Diagnosis. Very similar to *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n. because of distinct grey humeral stripe and dense bright elytral pubescence, but differs by a little darker pubescence with more contrast elytral setae patches; body length in males: 15.6-17.8 mm, width: 3.7-4.5 mm; body length in females: 13.1-17.2 mm; width: 3.2-4.4 mm.

Distribution. North Caucasus, Dagestan, Rutul env.; North-East Azerbaijan, Altyagatch.

Material. Holotype, 1 male, Dagestan, Rutul env., 24.6.2001, M. Ismailova leg. - collection of M.L. Danilevsky (Moscow); 3 paratypes (same collection): 1 male, 1 female, with same label; 1 female, Azerbaijan, Altyagach, 10.7.1979, M. Danilevsky leg.

Dedication. The new taxon is dedicated to Madina Ismailova, who collected the most part of the type series.

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Figs 1-2. *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n.

1 – male, holotype, Armenia, above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m., 5-6.5.2013, A.Rubenyany leg.; 2 – female, same locality.

Figs 3-4. *Agapanthia dahli ismailovae* ssp. n.

3 - male, holotype, Dagestan, Rutul env., 24.6.2001, M. Ismailova leg.; 4 – female, same locality.

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