



Three new species of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 from Iran (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

DANIELE BAIOCCHI

Via Matteo Babini, 26 – 00139 Roma, Italy. E-mail: danielbai@tin.it

Abstract

Three new species of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 endemic to Iran, *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *magnanii* n. sp., *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *mannaea* n. sp. and *Anthaxia* (*Cratomerus*) *meda* n. sp., along with the creation of the *Anthaxia parvula* species-group, are proposed and illustrated. The new taxa are compared to their most similar species and data about their distribution, bionomy and taxonomic position are given, together with a short definition of the new species-group.

Key words: Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Anthaxia*, new species, new species-group, distribution, bionomy, taxonomy, Iran

Introduction

In the course of several trips to Near and Middle East countries, we paid particular attention to Buprestidae of the genus *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829, collecting adults in the field when possible, and especially trying to rear them from their host plants, in order to gather firsthand bionomical data. Excellent results regarding host plants were obtained, as well as clarification of some taxonomical problems (Baiocchi and Magnani 2008), and discovery of many new species, some of which have recently been published (Baiocchi 2008; Baiocchi and Magnani 2006, 2010; Magnani and Baiocchi, in press), while several undescribed species, mostly from the Zagros and the Elburs Iranian mountain ranges, will eventually be published.

In this study, we propose three new species, all endemic to Iran, and offer comments on their placement, relationships and bionomy. Together with the description of *A. mannaea*, we also propose the creation of a new species-group defined by *A. parvula*.

Locality data of all specimens are cited verbatim with additional comments in [square brackets]; data from separate labels are divided by slash mark [/]. Concerning size of specimens, the length was measured from the anterior pronotal margin to the posterior elytral apex. All photographs by the author (not in scale).

Anthaxia (*Anthaxia*) *magnanii* n. sp.

(Figs. 1,3,4,13,14,15,31,37,39,45,51,57,60,63,64)

Description of holotype ♂ (Fig. 1). Body suboval, rather convex; length: 6.0 mm, maximum width at humeral height: 2.5 mm, length/width ratio: 2.4 times longer than wide; dorsal colouration brilliant bronze with slight copper tinge on head, pronotum; discal area of pronotum with two longitudinal, indistinct, blurred maculae, interrupted in frontal 1/2; legs, antennae, ventral surface of same bronze colour as rest of the body; last five antennomeres yellowish at respective base.

Head (Fig. 13) slightly narrower than anterior pronotal margin; eyes not projecting beyond outline of head; vertex flat, rather narrow (0.4 times as wide as width of head), with an evident dark median line; frons (Fig. 31) wide, slightly depressed in middle; inner ocular margins S-shaped, moderately converging on vertex, diverging on lower frontal portion; sculpture of vertex very weak, shallow in middle, strongly stretched near the upper ocular margins, consisting of irregular cells, with finely microsculptured brilliant bottom and tiny setigerous punctures;