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The *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *manca* (Linnaeus, 1767) species-group in Iran, with description of a new species and a new synonymy (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

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Abstract

Anthaxia (*Anthaxia*) *simandli* sp. nov., a new endemic species from Iran is described, together with the hitherto unknown male of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *magnifica* Bílý, 1983. New synonymy of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *mancatula* Abeille, 1900 = *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *intermedia* Obenberger, 1913 syn. nov. is proposed, and a lectotype for *A. mancatula* is designated. All species are illustrated, and comments on their bionomy, distribution, and taxonomic position are given, as well as on the current state of the *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *manca* (Linnaeus, 1767) species-group in Iran.

Key words: Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Anthaxia*, *Anthaxia manca* species-group, new species, new synonymy, lectotype designation, bionomy, distribution, Iran

Introduction

Several studies, dealing partly or exclusively with the *Anthaxia* of Iran, have already been published by many authors, however the number of Iranian species of this genus is continually changing, and a number of interesting new species will eventually be published and added to the Iranian fauna in the future. In this and in further papers currently in preparation, along with descriptions of new taxa, I will try to show the present biological and taxonomic state of some of the different species-groups present in Iran and neighbouring countries. With this in mind for some years, I have asked colleagues and friends dealing with Buprestidae, to forward me data from their collections in the Middle East, and in particular from Iran, in order to gather as much data as possible, to get a clearer idea of the current state of the genus *Anthaxia* in this country. It was thanks to this cooperation that last year, among some freshly captured Iranian specimens of *Anthaxia* that I was asked to identify by my friend Jiri Simandl, I found a single female of a beautiful undescribed species belonging to the *Anthaxia manca* species-group. In this study, together with the description of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *simandli* sp. nov., I also describe the hitherto unknown male of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *magnifica* Bílý, 1983, and I propose the new synonymy of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *intermedia* Obenberger, 1913 under *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *mancatula* Abeille, 1900, in addition to contributing to the present state of knowledge of the *A. manca* species-group in Iran with comments on taxonomy, distribution, and bionomy of its local components. For ease of comparison, because of the high probability that it will eventually be found in Iran, one male of *Anthaxia* (*Anthaxia*) *senicula* (Schrank, 1789) from Armenia is also illustrated in the present study. In order to assure a more complete framework for eventual future work on this group, since both descriptions by Abeille de Perrin and Obenberger were very short and based on a few characters only, I decided to give a more detailed description of the lectotype of *A. mancatula*, to point out the intraspecific variability, and the differences to its closest related species.

Locality data of specimens are cited verbatim with additional comments in [square brackets]; data from separate labels are divided by a slash mark (/). Concerning the size of specimens, the length was measured from the anterior pronotal margin to the posterior elytral apex. In the description of surface sculpture, I applied the terminology found in the paper of Harris (1979). Photographs 1,3,17 by M. Gigli, photograph 60 by J. Simandl, photographs 4–16,19,21–25,30–36,38,40–48 by A. Hallgass. All remaining photographs by the author (all pictures not to same scale). The following acronyms are used in the text: HT = holotype; LT = lectotype; ST = syntype; TL = type locality. The following additional acronyms are used for deposition of specimens: