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Description of a new species of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 from Jordan, with notes on the *Anthaxia winkleri* species-group (Coleoptera, Buprestidae)

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Abstract

A new species of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 endemic to Jordan, *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *nabataea* **sp. nov.**, is described and illustrated. The new taxon is compared to its most similar species, and data about its distribution, bionomy and taxonomic position are given, together with some notes on the *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *winkleri* species-group.

Keys words: Taxonomy, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, *Anthaxia*, new species, distribution, bionomy, Jordan

Introduction

During a field trip to Jordan made in 1998, we collected some dead branches of *Astragalus* sp. on the eastern slope of the Araba valley, along the road from Feifa to Tafilah. From this wood we obtained several specimens of a new species of the genus *Anthaxia* which on closer examination turned out to belong to the *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *winkleri* species-group (formerly *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *armeniaca* species-group—see Baiocchi & Magnani 2008). Since then this new species, *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *nabataea* **sp. nov.**, has also been collected and reared by other entomologists who visited the same area.

Our hesitation in describing this new species was due to the fact that its taxonomic position within its group remained rather unclear until a further new species from Iran, *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *sagartiana* Baiocchi & Magnani, 2011 was studied and described (Baiocchi & Magnani 2011). Both *A. (H.) sagartiana* and *A. (H.) nabataea* **sp. nov.** show characters similar to those found in *Anthaxia* (*Haplanthaxia*) *gedrosiana* Bílý, 1983 (Fig. 2, 24), a species apparently endemic to south-eastern Iran. All three species were found in subdesert areas typical of most of the Middle East countries, and in a previous study (Baiocchi & Magnani 2011), on the basis of some morphological characters, they were tentatively placed in the *A. (H.) gedrosiana* complex, within the informal *A. (H.) winkleri* species-group.

Locality data of specimens are cited verbatim; additional comments are quoted in [square brackets]; data from separate labels are divided by a slash mark (/). The length of the specimens was measured from the anterior pronotal margin to the posterior elytral apex. In the description of surface sculpture, we applied the terminology found in the paper of Harris (1979). Photographs 1–3, 5–11, 13–21, 26 by D. Baiocchi, photographs 4, 27 by M. Gigli, photographs 12, 22, 24, 25 by A. Hallgass (all pictures are not to the same scale). The following acronyms are used for deposition of specimens:

ALCR	Andrea Liberto collection, Rome, Italy
DBCR	Daniele Baiocchi collection, Roma, Italy
DGCC	Domenico Gianasso collection, Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Italy
DPPAJ	Department of Plant Protection, Faculty of Agriculture, University of Amman, Jordan
FICO	Francesco Izzillo collection, Orta di Atella, Italy
GMCC	Gianluca Magnani collection, Cesena, Italy