

A NEW SPECIES OF *ANTHAXIA* FROM LYBIA  
(Coleoptera, Buprestidae)

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INTRODUCTION

During his stay in Lybia for reasons regarding his professional work, my friend Jean Claude Ringenbach has made several trips to various parts of the country, collecting a great number of Buprestidae, partly still under study. Among the various species of *Anthaxia* Eschscholtz, 1829 from the coastal zone of the country that he asked me to identify, one species belonging to the subgenus *Haplanthaxia* Reitter, 1911, proved to be new for science; its description is the object of the present paper.

The following abbreviations are used in the text: collection of Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France (MNHN); collection of Zoological Museum of the University "La Sapienza", Rome, Italy (MZUR); collection of National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic (NMPC).

***Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) ringenbachi* n. sp.**

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype: ♂, Lybia, Cyrenaica, Ras el Hilal, 7.V.2004, J. C. Ringenbach legit. Paratypes: 54 ♂♂ and ♀♀, Lybia, Cyrenaica, Ras el Hilal, 7.V.2004, J. C. Ringenbach legit. 6 ♂♂ and ♀♀, Lybia, Cyrenaica, Ras el Hilal 6.V.2004, J. C. Ringenbach legit. 3 ♂♂ and ♀♀, Lybia, Cyrenaica, Wadi Kuf, 1.VI.2004, J. C. Ringenbach legit. 1 ♂, Lybia, Cyrenaica, Wadi Kuf, 29.VI.2004, J. C. Ringenbach legit.

Holotype ♂ deposited in Baiocchi collection (Rome); paratypes in the collections MNHN (Paris), NMPC (Prague), D. Baiocchi (Rome), D. Gianasso (Castelnuovo Don Bosco, Asti), M. Gigli (Rome), F. Izzillo (Naples), A. Liberto (Rome), J. C. Ringenbach (Brest, France).

DESCRIPTION. Holotype (fig. 1): small (length 4.5 mm, width 1.6 mm), parallel and rather vaulted body; colour black, semilustrous;

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frons green; lateral edges of pronotum with greenish lustre; dorsal side with short and sparse white pubescence.

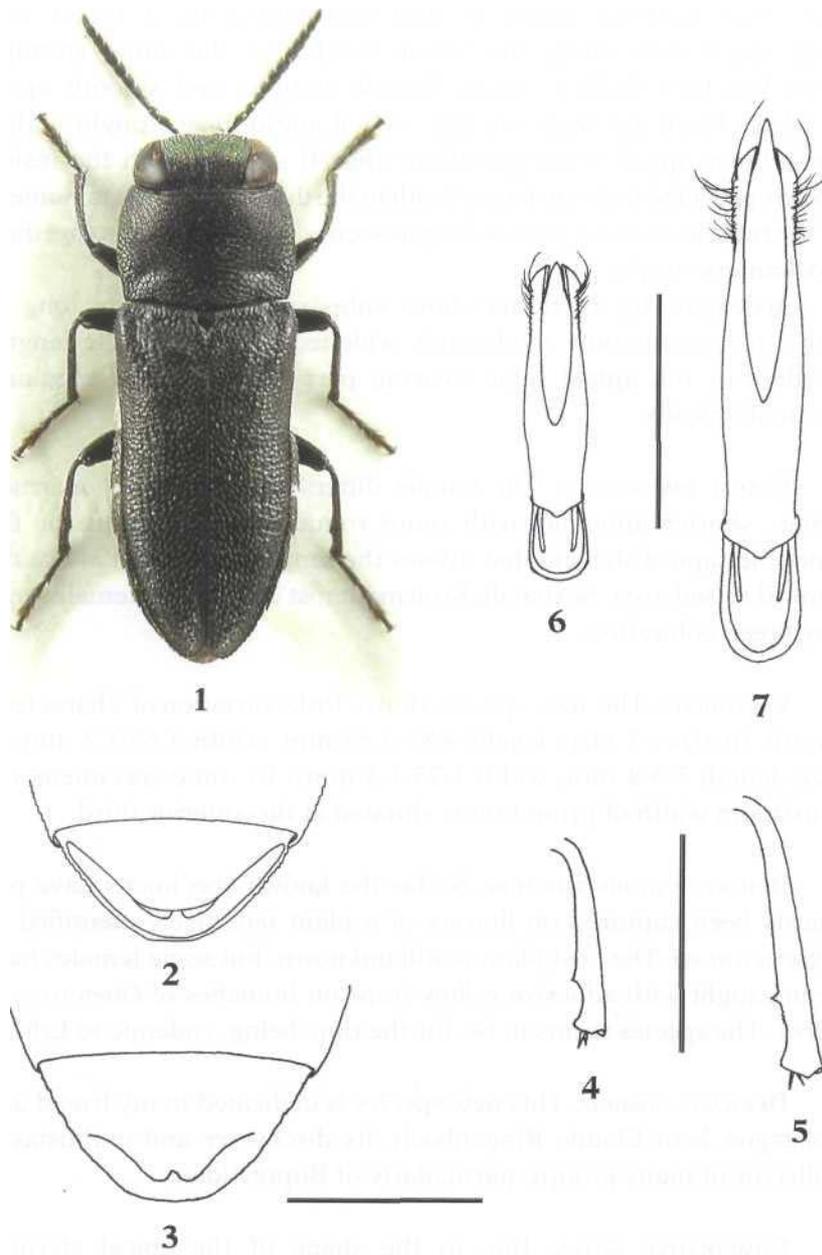
Head wide, eyes somewhat projecting beyond outline of head, frons slightly convex with feeble median groove, covered with short whitish, erect and divergent pubescence; sculpture of head consisting of regular subpolygonal cells with small, sharp, eccentric grain, smoother on vertex; inner ocular margins very feebly S-shaped; clypeus triangularly incurved anteriorly; vertex about half the width of the anterior margin of pronotum, very slightly depressed and hairless; antennae black, about 1.3 times the length of pronotum; the first four antennomeres with greenish lustre; first antennal joint slightly club-shaped, the second one subcylindrical, somewhat enlarged distally and as long the third one; antennomeres 3-4 subtriangular, 5-10 trapezoidal, the last segment elliptical.

Pronotum moderately convex and slightly transverse (1.5 times as wide as long), with maximum width around the middle, weakly narrowed at the base, with basal angles obtuse, and distinct laterobasal depressions; lateral margins slightly arched; anterior margin weakly sinuate; sculpture consisting of subpolygonal regular cells with smooth bottom and small eccentric grain; the whole surface covered with very short whitish pubescence, erect on the disc and frontally directed on lateral sides.

Scutellum subtriangular and microreticulated.

Elytra vaulted, with the maximum width at humeral swellings, externally narrowing for the first third of their length, shortly running parallel in the middle, therefore regularly tapering up to the apex, separately subrounded; basal transverse depressions almost absent; epipleuras complete, slightly serrate and widened to the apex where they connect to the central suture; surface roughly sculptured and covered with short and semierect whitish pubescence.

Ventral side dark green, brighter on meso- and metasternum, and on the prosternal process; sculpture of the prosternum formed by irregular transversally lengthened cells; punctuation coarser and shallow on meso- and metasternum, denser and deeper on the prosternal process, and absent on the abdomen; the whole ventral surface is microsculptured and sparsely clothed with prostrate whitish pubescence, more abundant on prosternal process; the apical abdominal sternite (fig. 2) bears a raised central area with a wide V-shaped incision at the apex, surmounted by a semicircular



Figs 1-7 -*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) ringenbachi* n. sp.: habitus (1), last abdominal sternite (2), right metatibia (4), aedeagus (6). *Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) millefolii smaragdifrons* Marseul, 1865: last abdominal sternite (3), right metatibia (5), aedeagus (7). Scale lines = 1 mm. Photograph: M. Gigli. Drawings: D. Baiocchi 2004.

crest that partially hides it, and surrounded by a broad and deep depression along the whole border of the same sternite, which has very slightly serrate lateral margins and smooth apex.

Legs black; protibiae slightly arched; mesotibiae straight with a weak inner apical spur; metatibiae (fig. 4) straight with the inside border provided with an obtuse tooth to the distal third; first tarsomere of the middle and rear legs, as long as second and third taken together; trochanters simple.

Aedeagus (fig. 6) rather short, subparallel, 5 times as long as wide; parameres only moderately widened at their middle length; borders of the apical setae bearing part serrate. Penis regularly pointed apically.

**SEXUAL DIMORPHISM.** The female differs from male by unarmed tibiae, shorter antennae with more rounded articles, and for the smoother apical sternite that misses the semicircular crest above the central raised area. Sexual dichroism almost absent; the female lacks any green coloration.

**VARIABILITY.** The new species shows little variation of characters, mostly in size (♂ size: length 4.85-3.55 mm, width 1.65-1.2 mm; ♀ size: length 5-3.8 mm, width 1.75-1.3 mm). In some specimens the maximum width of pronotum is situated at the anterior third.

**BIOLOGY AND DISTRIBUTION.** SO far the known specimens have primarily been captured on flowers of a plant tentatively identified as *Hypericum* sp. The host plant is still unknown, but some females have been caught with adhesive yellow traps on branches of *Quercus coccifera*. The species seems to be, for the time being, endemic to Lybia.

**DERIVATIO NOMINIS.** This new species is dedicated to my friend and colleague Jean Claude Ringenbach, its discoverer and enthusiastic collector of many groups, particularly of Buprestidae.

**COMPARATIVE NOTES.** Due to the shape of the apical sternite, metatibiae, antennae of the male, and aedeagus, *Anthaxia ringenbachi* is here included in the "*millefolii* species group". Its most closely related species is *Anthaxia millefolii smaragdifrons* Marseul, 1865 from which it differs by the following characters:

<i>Anthaxia ringenbachi</i> n. sp.	<i>Anthaxia millefolii smamgdifrons</i> Marseul, 1865
vertex wide 0.5 times the width of anterior margin of pronotum	vertex wide 0.42 times the width of anterior margin of pronotum
inner margin of eye very feebly S-shaped	inner margin of eye more evidently S-shaped
male metatibiae with obtuse tooth at apical third (fig. 4)	male metatibiae with acute tooth at apical quarter (fig. 5)
apical sternite depression running along the whole border; incision of the raised area surmounted by a semicircular crest (fig. 2)	apical sternite depression reaching middle of the border; notched raised area smooth (fig. 3)
aedeagus 5 times as long as wide (fig. 6)	aedeagus 6,3 times as long as wide (fig. 7)

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#### SUMMARY

*Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) ringenbachi* n. sp. from Lybia is here described and illustrated. Due to the shape of the anal sternite, metatibiae, male antennae and aedeagus, this new species is included in the "*millefolii* species group", in which it is easily separated from other representatives of the group by the outstanding black coloration of the male and further morphological characters.

#### RIASSUNTO

*Una nuova Anthaxia di Libia (Coleoptera, Buprestidae).*

Si descrive ed illustra *Anthaxia (Haplanthaxia) ringenbachi* n. sp. della Libia. In considerazione della forma dello sternite anale, delle metatibie, delle antenne del maschio e dell'edeago, questa nuova specie viene inclusa nel "gruppo *millefolii*", entro cui si distingue dalle altre specie per la inusuale colorazione nera del maschio ed altri caratteri morfologici.

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