

DISTRIBUTIONAL AND TAXONOMICAL NOTES ON *ANTHROHERPON APFELBECKI* MÜLLER (COLEOPTERA, LEIODIDAE, CHOLEVINAE, LEPTODIRINI)

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SUMMARY. New localities are given for *Anthroherpon apfelbecki* Müller, new collects of *Anthroherpon scutulatum* Giachino & Guéorguiev in the type locality allows the description of the male and the taxonomical lowering to the rank of subspecies rank of *A. apfelbecki* Müller.

KEY WORDS. Coleoptera, troglobitic species, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro.

1 – INTRODUCTION

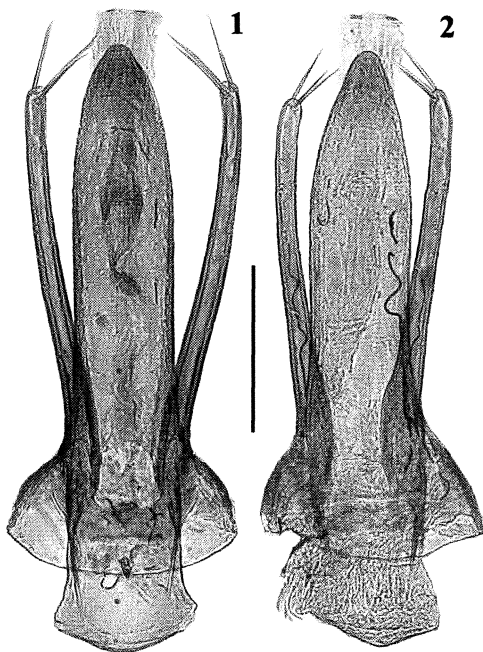
Anthroherpon apfelbecki Müller was described quasi-simultaneously by Müller (1910) and by Apfelbeck (1911), under the name *Anthroherpon kauti*, from the same type locality: pećina Vjetrenica in Zavala near Ravno. This type subspecies widely distributed in most of the caves of the western side of the Popovo Polje and in caves located in Croatia (near Osojnik). But other subspecies or species subsequently lowered to subspecies rank were lately described: *Anthroherpon lahneri* Matcha, 1916 from caves near Njeguši on the mount Lovćen; *Anthroherpon apfelbecki metohijensis* Zariquiev, 1927, from cave on the mount Troglav near Korita; *Anthroherpon apfelbecki sculptifrons* Winkler, 1925, from the Žaba planina, south of Metković. More recently, Giachino & Guéorguiev (1993) described *Anthroherpon scutulatum* on a single female from jama Bravenik in Grab near Trebinje.

The collects of recent expeditions in Herzegovina and Montenegro: DABAR 2003, ASAMO 2004, TREBINJE 2005 (KURTOVIĆ *et al.*, 2008), GS Minos's collects in Montenegro and collects of I. Karaman and D. Pavićević in Montenegro contain numerous specimen of *A. apfelbecki* from several new localities. The collects of seven specimen of *A. scutulatum* Giachino & Guéorguiev in jama Bravenik allows the detailed examination of both the male and the female and lead to consider *A. scutulatum* as a subspecies of *A. apfelbecki*.

2 – TAXONOMY

The new collects by trapping in jama Bravenik in Grab, near Trebinje during the ASAMO 2004 expedition lead to the collect of seven specimen of *Anthroherpon* which appears to be similar and closely related with *Anthroherpon apfelbecki* Müller. The specimen fit all characters of *A. scutulatum* but the lack of the strong elytral setae. These setae are allways in few number in *A. apfelbecki* and scarcely distributed on the elytral surface. On old specimen (as the holotype of *A. scutulatum*), the setae are frequently missing. This character cannot be retained to distinguish the species. The aedeagus of the collected males shows some tiny differences (figs. 1 & 2): the apical sides of the median lobe of *A. scutulatum* are slightly more convergent and the three apical setae of the parameres slightly shorter.

Then *A. scutulatum* is considered here as a subspecies of *A. apfelbecki*, but detailed biometric and distributional studies of all subspecies of *A. apfelbecki* are necessary to definitely assess the status of this taxon. The important morphological variability of *A. apfelbecki* over the wide distribution area and also inside a same population makes possible a synonymy of *A. scutulatum* as with *A. apfelbecki apfelbecki*.



Figures 1-2. Aedeagus dorsal view. 1: *A. apfelbecki apfelbecki* Müller (Vjetrenica, type locality). 2: *A. apfelbecki scutulatum* Giachino & Guéorguiev (jama Bravenik, type locality). Scale bar is 0.2 mm.

3 – DISTRIBUTIONAL DATA

A. apfelbecki has been collected from the following mostly new localities:

- Berkovići : Fatničko polje, Pećina Lepirnica
- Selo Sunići: Dabarsko polje, Sunićka pećina
- Avtovac : Mulje, Muljska pećina
- Korita : Pećina Veliko Đatlo
- Korita : Brestice, jama za Pločnikom
- Korita : Njemenice, jama Jametina
- Dubočani : Velika pećina
- Bileća : Bijeje Rudine, Vranjača jama
- Bileća : village Granica, jama Zagradina
- Trebinje : Zupci, village Grab, Jama Bravenik (Orjen) (*A. a. scutulatum*)

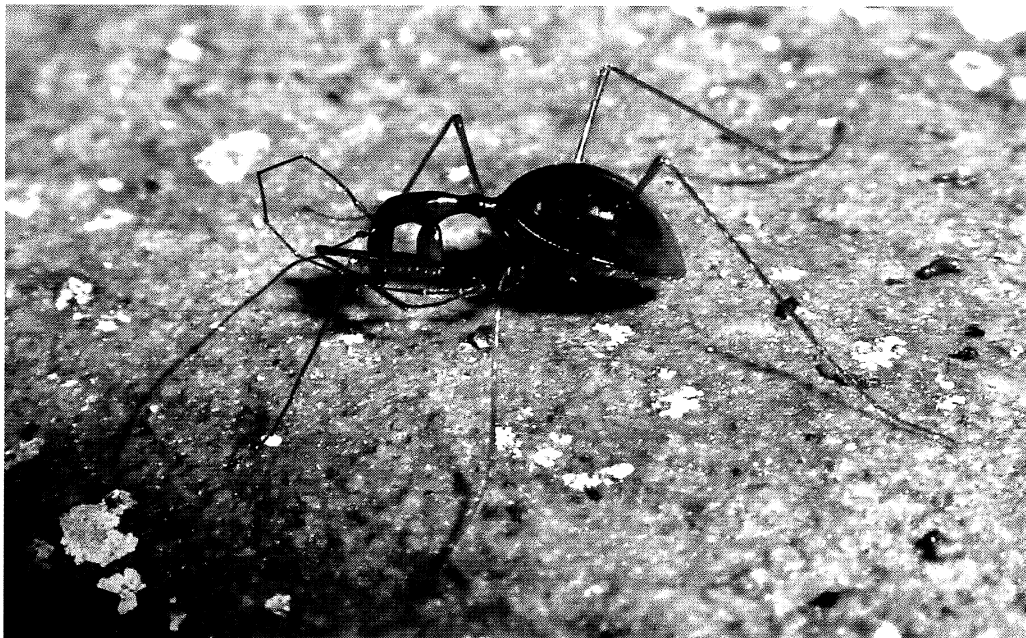


Figure 3. *Anthroherpon apfelbecki* Müller in Sunićka pećina (Dabarsko polje) (Photo: M. Komnenov).

- Trebinje : Vilina pećina near Tuli (*A. a. scutulatum*)
 Trebinje : Drenov do, Lemova pećina
 Trebinje : Popovo polje, Baba estavella
 Bjelašnica : Turica, Jama iznad Močila
 Nevesinje : village Balabani, pećina Drvendžina
 Orjen : Bijela Gora, Begova Korita, Medov do, Jama u Milanovom odsjeku
 Orjen : Grahovo, Vojvode Dakovića pećina
 Orjen : Crkvice, Devočka jama
 Orjen : Crkvice, Erikova jama
 Orjen : Crkvice, jama near Malov do
 Orjen : Ledenice, Grkavac, Jama na Vrh

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