

**Two new subspecies of *Agapanthia dahli* (Richter, 1821) from Dagestan and Armenia (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)**

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**Key words:** Taxonomy, zoogeography, new subspecies, new rank, Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, *Agapanthia*, Dagestan, Armenia, Azerbaijan.

**Abstract:** *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani*, **ssp. n.** is described from South Armenia (Megri district), *Agapanthia dahli ismailovae*, **ssp. n.** is described from Dagestan and North Azerbaijan. *Agapanthia dahli walteri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, **new rank**, *A. d. muellneri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. alexandris* Pic, 1901, **new rank**, *A. d. persica* Semenov, 1893, **new rank** and *A. d. transcaspica* Pic, 1900, **new rank** are downgraded from species level.

**INTRODUCTION**

The distinguishing characters between 7 taxa generally accepted as species - *Agapanthia dahli* (Richter, 1821) *A. walteri* Reitter, 1898, *A. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, *A. muellneri* Reitter, 1898, *A. alexandris* Pic, 1901, *A. persica* Semenov, 1893 and *A. transcaspica* Pic, 1900 – are only limited by the characters (density, color, length, size and shape of elytral patches). All 7 are vicariants and each two can never occur in one locality, but food plants are about the same in all seven.

Several early attempts to regard certain names as synonyms (*A. muellneri* and *A. alexandris* by Plavilstshikov, 1968; or *A. persica* and *A. transcaspica* by Shapovalov, 2009) can not be accepted. Many synonyms proposed by Kostin (1978) in *Agapanthia* were also unacceptable.

All of them are admitted here as subspecies: *Agapanthia dahli walteri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, **new rank**, *A. d. muellneri* Reitter, 1898, **new rank**, *A. d. alexandris* Pic, 1901, **new rank**, *A. d. persica* Semenov, 1893, **new rank** and *A. d. transcaspica* Pic, 1900, **new rank**

In fact many well known populations of *A. dahli*-complex are much more peculiar than taxa mentioned above. Two of them are described bellow as new subspecies, while others (from Aktyubinsk

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area, from Gissar Ridge, Zaisan depression and Altay Mountains system need further investigation.

The taxons of *A. dahli*-complex are widely distributed all over Caucasus. The Central Transcaucasia are occupied by *A. d. walteri* with a transition to *A. d. dahli* in West Georgia and North-East Caucasus. The Transcaucasian area in Georgia northwards Armenian *A. d. walteri* (Gori, Tbilisi, Lagodekhi, Vashlovani) belongs to *A. d. nitidipennis*. The populations of *A. dahli* from Dagestan with neighbor areas of North Azerbaijan and from South Armenia (Megri and Goris districts) with neighbor areas of South Azerbaijan are similar to *A. d. nitidipennis* because of grey humeral stripes in the most of specimens, but differs by very dense dorsal pubescence and strongly distant from each other. Both areas contain own well pronounced subspecies.

*Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n.

(Figs 1-2)

**Type locality.** South Armenia, Megri District, mountains above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m.

**Diagnosis.** Body black with numerous erect black setae; moderately long; head with dense yellow pubescence, condensed between antennae bases; genae about as long as lower eye lobes, densely covered with yellow pubescence; eyes a little convex, about flat, with deep notch; the distance between upper eye lobes is about 1.5-2 mm, the length of frons from 1.3 to 1.9mm; antennae thin, 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> joints black, other joints red basally and black distally; reaching beyond elytral apices with 5 joints in males and 3 joints in females; red antennal areas with white recumbent pubescence; 3rd antennal joint with distinct setae tuft; other joints with more or less numerous semierect setae; prothorax transverse, its width anteriorly: 1.3-2.3 mm, posteriorly: 2.2-3.0 mm; its maximal width behind middle: 2.5-3.4 mm, prothorax length: 2.5-2.7 mm; pronotal punctation consists of distinct big dots with fine punctures in between; elytra with scattered spots of yellow pubescence which can be more or less numerous; humeri usually with distinct wide stripe of very fine grey pubescence, which can be sometimes poorly developed or indistinct;

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elytral length: 8.1-12.1 mm, width: 2.5-4.9 mm, elytra about 2 times wider than long; femora and tibiae with fine punctation, covered by dense pale pubescence; body length in males: 11.3-16.5 mm, width: 2.5-4.4 mm; body length in females: 12.8-19.5 mm; width: 2.9-4.9 mm.

**Remark.** *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n. easily differs from *A. d. walteri* Reitter, 1898 by the presence of grey humeral stripe, besides elytral spots of dense yellow setae less concentrated, diffused. Similar grey humeral elytral strip is also known in *A. d. nitidipennis* Holzschuh, 1984, which is strongly distant (distributed in East Georgia) and characterized by very sparse elytral pubescence.

**Distribution.** Three localities are known in South Armenia: Megri district above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m. and 38°57'14"N, 46°22'41"E, 900 m; Lichk above Megri; Goris environs, Tekh, 39°34'6"N, 46°25'52"E, 1600 m; and two in South Azerbaijan: Zangelan environs, 39°4'16"N, 46°36'44"E, 590 m.; Kubatly environs, 39°22'11"N, 46°34'50"E, 690 m.

**Material.** Holotype, 1 male, "Armenia, above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m., 5-6.5.2013, A.Rubenyanyan" - collection of M.L. Danilevsky (Moscow); 38 paratypes (collection of M.L. Danilevsky): 15 males, 15 females, Armenia, above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m., 05-06.05.2013, A.Rubenyanyan; 2 males, Armenia, Shvanidzor, 38°57'14"N, 46°22'41"E, 900 m., 05.05.2013, A.Rubenyanyan; 1 male, Armenia, Tekh, 39°34'6"N, 46°25'52"E, 1600 m., 03.05.2013, A.Rubenyanyan; 1 male, Azerbaijan, 2 km N Kubatly, 39°22'11"N, 46°34'50"E, 690 m., 06.05.2013, A.Rubenyanyan; 1 female, Azerbaijan, Zangelan, 39°4'16"N, 46°36'44"E, 590 m., 05.05.2013, A.Rubenyanyan; 1 male and 1 female, Armenia, Lichk, 1.7.1986, O. Gorbunov leg.; 1 male, 4-8 km N Shvanidzor, 19-24.5.2005, Karagyan leg.

**Dedication.** The new taxon is dedicated to a well known experienced insect collector Artem Rubenyanyan (Moscow) who collected the most part of the type series.

*Agapanthia dahli ismailovae* ssp. n.

(Figs 3-4)

**Type locality.** North Cucasus, Dagestan, Rutul env.

**Diagnosis.** Very similar to *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n. because of distinct grey humeral stripe and dense bright elytral pubescence, but differs by a little darker pubescence with more contrast elytral setae patches; body length in males: 15.6-17.8 mm, width: 3.7-4.5 mm; body length in females: 13.1-17.2 mm; width: 3.2-4.4 mm.

**Distribution.** North Caucasus, Dagestan, Rutul env.; North-East Azerbaijan, Altyagatch.

**Material.** Holotype, 1 male, Dagestan, Rutul env., 24.6.2001, M. Ismailova leg. - collection of M.L. Danilevsky (Moscow); 3 paratypes (same collection): 1 male, 1 female, with same label; 1 female, Azerbaijan, Altyagach, 10.7.1979, M. Danievsky leg.

**Dedication.** The new taxon is dedicated to Madina Ismailova, who collected the most part of the type series.

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**Figs 1-2. *Agapanthia dahli rubenyani* ssp. n.**

1 – male, holotype, Armenia, above Shvanidzor, 39°13'N, 46°22'44"E, 1600 m., 5-6.5.2013, A.Rubenyany leg.; 2 – female, same locality.

**Figs 3-4. *Agapanthia dahli ismailovae* ssp. n.**

3 - male, holotype, Dagestan, Rutul env., 24.6.2001, M. Ismailova leg.; 4 – female, same locality.

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