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## A new Palaearctic subgenus of genus *Phytoecia* Dejean, 1835 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae)

MIKHAIL DANILEVSKY

*A.N. Severtsov Institute of Ecology and Evolution, Russian Academy of Sciences, Leninsky Prospect 33, Moscow 119071 Russia.*

*E-mail: danilevskym1@rambler.ru, danilevsky@cerambycidae.net*

*Phytoecia* (*Parobereina* **subgen. nov.**) type species *Phytoecia vittipennis* Reiche, 1877 is described for a group of 13 Palaearctic species. *Phytoecia* (*Obereina* Ganglbauer, 1886) **nom. rest.** is restored as a valid name.

**Key words:** Lamiinae, name restored, taxonomy, Africa

A very homogeneous group of Palaearctic species of the genus *Phytoecia* Dejean, 1835 close to *Ph. vittipennis* Reiche, 1877 was traditionally attributed (Aurivillius, 1923: 569; Plavilstshikov, 1926: 331, 338; Winkler, 1929: 1225; Plavilstshikov, 1932: 195; 1948: 199) to the subgenus *Ph. (Obereina)* Ganglbauer, 1886: 524) **nom. rest.** with type species *Ph. rubricollis* Lucas, 1847 (= *Saperda melanocephala* Fabricius, 1787). The type species was designated in the Catalogue by Löbl & Smetana (2010: 302).

In fact, *Ph. melanocephala* (Fabricius, 1787) is rather peculiar and differs considerably from the species of the “*vittipennis*—group” formerly included in *Ph. (Obereina)*. *Phytoecia melanocephala* is relatively wide, with strongly transverse prothorax, pronotum convex, rather smooth, with reduced central setae stripe, elytra uniformly grey, with hardly longitudinally arranged punctation, punctures usually more or less irregularly distributed.

For this reason the species was separated in the subgenus *Phytoecia* (*Rubrophytoecia* Breuning, 1943: 103) with type species: *Saperda melanocephala* Fabricius, 1787. Later *Ph. (Rubrophytoecia)* Breuning) together with *Ph. (Fulgophytoecia)* Pic, 1900: 16—type species *Phytoecia circumdata* Kraatz, 1882) were rashly published by Breuning (1951) as synonyms of *Ph. (Blepisanis)* Pascoe, 1867: 365—type species: *Saperda bohemani* Pascoe, 1858 from South Africa).

*Ph. (Obereina)* Ganglbauer, 1886) **nom. rest.** is definitely a valid name. The subgenus has only one (the type species) representative in the Palaearctic fauna, though the denticles of the tarsal claws in *Ph. melanocephala* are sharp and narrow, similar to the claw denticles in the species of the “*vittipennis*—group”, as well as in many other *Phytoecia* subgenera. A revision of African species of *Ph. (Obereina)* Ganglbauer, 1886) is beyond the purpose of the present publication.

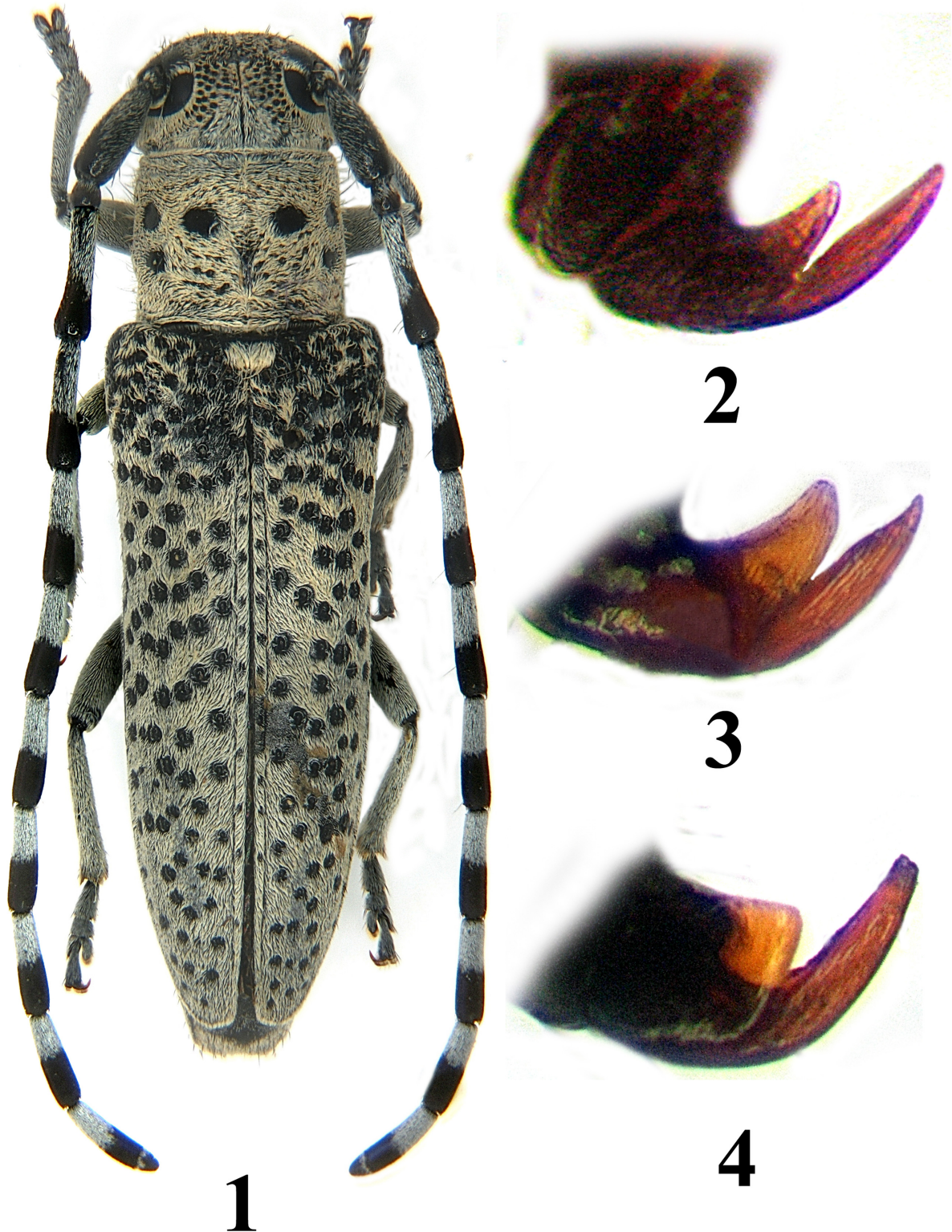
*Phytoecia (Blepisanis) bohemani* (Pascoe, 1858) is endemic to South Africa without any connections in the Palaearctic Region. Superficially, it resembles (Fig. 1) *Saperda* Fabricius, 1775, the genus the species was originally described in. The body of *Ph. bohemani* is relatively big and rather wide, elytral punctation is not arranged longitudinally (while longitudinal rows of punctures are very typical for *Phytoecia* species of the “*vittipennis*—group”), elytra are black with dense pale recumbent pubescence totally obscuring cuticle; denticles of the tarsal claws are wide, triangular (Fig. 2)—a shape, which is rarely observed in *Phytoecia* and never occurs in the “*vittipennis*—group”. Therefore, *Phytoecia* species of the “*vittipennis*—group” are described below as a new subspecies.

The clarification of the taxonomic position of many African species included now in *Ph. (Blepisanis)* requires further investigation.

### Materials and methods

A female (Fig. 1) of *Ph. (Blepisanis) bohemani* (Pascoe, 1858) with the label “SA KZN / Ongeluksnek 38 / 30.33794°S / 28.33055°E 1749m / Grassland / Flower searching / 04-Dec-2005 / III-UKZN / MDTR 3644” was received for study from the Durban Natural Science Museum (Durban, South Africa). Other specimens of the taxa mentioned in the article

are represented in own collection. Photographs were taken with Canon PowerShot A640 digital camera equipped with Canon Zoom lens 4X 7.3–29.2mm 1:2.8–4.1 and microscope Micromed MC-2-ZOOM. All photographs were edited with Adobe Photoshop 7.0 and Helicon Focus 3.20.



**FIGURES 1–4.** Fig 1. *Phytoecia (Blepisanis) bohemani* (Pascoe, 1858), female, South Africa. Figs 2–4. Outer anterior claws of right tarsi with denticles: 2—*Phytoecia (Parobereina subgen. nov.) vittipennis* Reiche, 1877, female, Greece, Elatia, 1.6.1979, Hladil leg.; 3—*Phytoecia (Parobereina subgen. nov.) ochraceipennis* Kraatz, 1882, female, Tadzhikistan, Gissar, 22.5.1939; 4—*Phytoecia (Blepisanis) bohemani* (Pascoe, 1858), South Africa.

## Results

### *Phytoecia* (*Parobereina* subgen. nov.)

**Type species:** *Phytoecia vittipennis* Reiche, 1877

**Diagnosis.** Body small, elongated; upper and lower eye lobes never totally divided, but connected by a narrow row of facets; mandibles never bicuspid; antennae usually black (sometimes more or less lightened), often thickened, not getting thin distally, often longer than body even in females, or a little shorter even in males; prothorax cylindrical, slightly elongated, or slightly transverse, with evenly rounded sides, often nearly parallel-sided, without lateral tubercles; pronotum can be densely pubescent or nearly glabrous usually with longitudinal central setae stripe, with more or less pronounced smooth shining callosities; elytra without humeral carinae, with longitudinal rows of punctures, which are always distinct anteriorly, usually yellow or yellow-brown with black elongated area along suture, sometimes totally yellow, very rare totally black, always without scales, never with dense recumbent pubescence obscuring cuticle, with rounded apices; denticles of tarsal claws (Figs 2–3) narrow, sharpened, usually short, but sometimes nearly as long as claws; hind coxae without spines.

## Discussion

The new subgenus consists of 13 Palaearctic species:

- Ph. (P.) forticornis* Breuning, 1947
- Ph. (P.) magnanii* (Sama, Rapuzzi & Rejzek, 2007)
- Ph. (P.) nigrofemorata* Breuning, 1947
- Ph. (P.) nivea* Kraatz, 1882
- Ph. (P.) ochraceipennis* Kraatz, 1882
- Ph. (P.) pallidipennis* Plavilstshikov, 1926
- Ph. (P.) remaudierei* (Villiers, 1967)
- Ph. (P.) repetekensis* Semenov, 1935
- Ph. (P.) tatyanae* Skrylnik, 2010
- Ph. (P.) tekensis* Semenov, 1896
- Ph. (P.) vittipennis* Reiche, 1877
- Ph. (P.) tokatensis* Pic, 1933
- Ph. (P.) volkoviitshi* Danilevsky, 2010

*Phytoecia* (*Parobereina* subgen. nov.) shows no connections with *Ph. (Blepisanis)* Pascoe, 1867, but can be regarded as a relative of *Ph. (Obereina)* Ganglbauer, 1886) **nom. rest.**

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