A new species of Alosterna Mulsant, 1863 from Lebanon, and notes on other species (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae)

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Abstract – Alosterna libani sp. n. from Lebanon is described. First records of Phymatodes testaceus (Linnaeus, 1758) and Pedostrangalia riccardoi carmelita Sama, 1996 for the fauna of Lebanon are given. Libanoclytus tommasoi Sama, Rapuzzi et Kairouz, 2010 is recorded from Syria for the first time. The host plants of Libanoclytus tommasoi are mentioned for the first time. With 22 figures and one table.

Key words – host plants, Middle East, new country records, Syria

INTRODUCTION

Two entomological trips to the Mount Lebanon range were carried out in May 2015 and June 2016 in the frame of the mutual agreement between the Holy Spirit University of Kaslik (USEK, Jounieh, Lebanon) and the Hungarian Natural History Museum (HNHM, Budapest, Hungary) for exploring biodiversity. Although the Cerambycidae fauna of Lebanon is quite well studied (Sama & Rapuzzi 2000, 2002, Sama et al. 2010, Cocquempot et al. 2016), while identifying the material recently collected in Lebanon we found one species new for science, and two additional species representing new records for the country.

METHODS

Measurements – Body length is measured along midline from the anterior margin of the frons to the apex of the elytra; width is measured across the broadest part of the body.

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Abbreviations —The following abbreviations refer to the collections in which the investigated material is deposited: HNHM = Hungarian Natural History Museum, Coleoptera Collection, Budapest, Hungary; PCAM = private collection of András Márkus, Gyula, Hungary; PCAK = private collection of Attila Kotán, Budapest, Hungary; PCKSZ = private collection of Kálmán Székely, Budapest, Hungary.

**Alosterna libani** sp. n.  
(Figs 1–2, 5, 8, 11)

**Type material** — Holotype, male: “LEBANON, Northern gov., Bcharre env., 1 km E Ariz, Horsh Arz el-Rab, ancient Cedrus forest, swept & singled, 34° 14’ 33” N, 36° 2’ 59” E, 1900 m, 20.V.2015, leg. A. Márkus & T. Németh” (HNHM).

Paratypes: 4 males, with the same data as holotype (2 PCAM, 2 HNHM); 1 female: same but “singled at night, 27.V.2015, leg. M. Boustani, A. Márkus, T. Németh & M. Rehayem” (PCAM).

**Description** — Body length 7.0–8.1 mm (males), 8.4 mm (female); body width 1.9–2.0 mm (males), 2.4 mm (female). Body, including antennae and legs black, palps ferruginous, elytra brownish-yellowish, covered with yellow-gold hairs.

Male (Fig. 1). Head short, wide, covered with sparse, semierect pubescence directed backwards. Frons and vertex finely and densely punctate with uniformly sized punctures. Median furrow partly visible, with punctation sparser, inter-spaces here shiny. Temple short, moderately narrowed backwards. Last maxillary palpomere securiform, posteriorly widened, obliquely truncate.

Antenna relatively short, not reaching third abdominal ventrite. Antennomeres I–V gradually widened apically, their surface shiny, with coarse and dense punctation and long semierect hairs. Antennomeres VI–XI parallel-sided, surface matt, microreticulate, with very short, white, recumbent pubescence. Second antennomere is the shortest, length ratio of antennomeres 7 : 2 : 7 : 5.5 : 6.5 : 5.5 : 5 : 4.5 : 4.5 : 4 : 6.


Scutellum black, elongate, triangular, densely punctate.

Elytra about 2.5 times longer than wide, parallel-sided, apices rounded. Surface shiny, with fine punctation, distance between punctures on average equal or slightly bigger than puncture diameters. Some paratypes with sparser punctation in anterior third or fourth, interspaces here 1.5× broader than puncture diameters. Punctation denser posteriorly, where interspaces narrower. Pubescence moderately dense, long, semierect.
Legs. Femur slightly widened, narrowed distally. Tibia moderately widened apically. Hind tibia without keel, straight (Fig. 5). First metatarsomere longer than second and third combined.

Male genitalia as in Figs 8 and 11.

Female (Fig. 2). Similar to male, with slightly wider pronotum and elytra. Punctuation of posterior third of elytra denser, where intervals narrower. Pubescence of pronotum and elytra slightly longer. Antenna shorter. First metatarsomere narrower.

Diagnosis – The genus *Alosterna* Mulsant, 1863 contains eight species (one with seven subspecies) in the Palearctic region (Danilevsky 2016). *A. libani* sp. n. is morphologically similar to *A. pauli* Pesarini, Rapuzzi et Sabbadini, 2004 (Fig. 3), described from Greece and *A. anatolica* Adlbauer, 1992 (Fig. 4), described from Turkey. These three species share the unicoloured brownish-yellowish elytra, black femur and tibia, and blackish antenna not reaching apex of elytra. *Alosterna libani* sp. n. can be distinguished by the character states listed in Table 1.

Biology – The male specimens of the newly described species were collected at daytime by beating the flowering branches of *Quercus cedrorum* Kotschy. The only female was collected at night on bark-free part of *Cedrus libani* A. Rich. in the ancient Forest of Cedars of God (Horsh Arz el-Rab), near Bcharre, North Lebanon (Fig. 26).

Etymology – The specific epithet is derived from the country of Lebanon.


<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th><em>A. libani</em> sp. n.</th>
<th><em>A. anatolica</em></th>
<th><em>A. pauli</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>pronotum shape</td>
<td>slightly longer than wide</td>
<td>as long as wide</td>
<td>as long as wide</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hind tibia</td>
<td>simple, straight (Fig. 5)</td>
<td>with keel, straight (Fig. 7)</td>
<td>simple, slightly curved (Fig. 6)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>first metatarsomere</td>
<td>shorter, length/width ratio 5.4-6.4:1</td>
<td>longer, length/width ratio 7:1</td>
<td>longer, length/width ratio 7:1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>apical part of parameres</td>
<td>wider, with apex almost flat, pointed at inner part (Fig. 8)</td>
<td>thin, curved, pointed at apex, symmetric (Fig. 9)</td>
<td>thin, with asymmetric apex (Fig. 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>parameres shape</td>
<td>shorter and broader (Fig. 11)</td>
<td>shorter and broader (Fig. 12)</td>
<td>longer and thinner (Fig. 13)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Kotán, A. Márkus & T. Németh” (1 female, PCAM); “Ellas, Peloponez, Aghios Petros, 20.V.2009, leg. A. Woźniak” (1 male, PCAM); “Greece, Peloponnese, 32 km south from Tripoli, 20.V.2009, leg. Marcin Walczak” (1 male, PCAM); “Greece, Peloponnese, distr. Ahaia, Erimanthos Mts, 1 km E Kalentzi, Abies forest, 37° 56’ 57.2” N, 21° 46’ 17.6” E, 1197 m, beaten from Crataegus sp., 10.VI.2015, leg. P. Brůha, J. Mertlik, T. Németh & B. Zbuzek” (4 males, 1 female, PCAM, 3 males, HNHM).

*Cortodera colchica colchica* Reitter, 1890  
(Figs 14–18)


**Remarks** – According to Danilevsky (2016) the populations in Iran, Lebanon and Syria may represent a new species or subspecies.

*Leiopus syriacus syriacus* (Ganglbauer, 1884)  
(Figs 19–20, 24)

**Material examined** – “LEBANON, Northern gov., Bcharre env., Quadisha Valley, beaten, 34° 14’ 57” N, 35° 58’ 34” E, 970 m, 22.VI.2016, leg. M. Boustani, A. Kotán, P. Nemes, T. Németh & W. Yammine” (1 male, HNHM, 2 females, 1 male, PCAK); “LEBANON, Northern gov., Tannourine env., 2 km N Harissa, stream valley, reared from Juglans regia, 34° 12’ 22” N, 35° 55’ 17” E, 1460 m, 25.V.2015, leg. O. Akiki, A. Márkus, N. Nemer & T. Németh” (2 females, HNHM, 2 males, 1 female, PCAK, 5 males, 2 females, PCAM).

**Remarks** – Although Sama et al. (2010) mentioned *L. syriacus syriacus* from Lebanon, the collected specimens morphologically fit better the original description of *L. syriacus tauricus* Sama et Rapuzzi, 2010 from Turkey. We had no possibility to examine any specimens of *L. syriacus syriacus*, therefore refrain from making any taxonomic conclusion.

*Libanoclytus tommasoi* Sama, Rapuzzi et Kairouz, 2010  
(Fig. 21, 25)

**Material examined** – “LEBANON, Northern gov., Bcharre env., Quadisha Valley, 34° 14’ 57” N, 35° 58’ 34” E, 970 m, from dry branches of Morus sp., 26.V.– 11.VI.2015, leg. M. Boustani, A. Márkus, T. Németh & M. Rehayem” (16 males, 11 females, PCAM, 1 male, 1 female, HNHM); “LEBANON, Northern gov.,
A. Márkus & T. Németh


Remarks – A species described from Lebanon. The host plant was unknown at the time of description. The Lebanese specimens emerged in 2015 from cut down, dry branches of *Morus* sp. (2–6 cm in diameter). In 2016, one male specimen (Fig. 25) was hand-collected from a dry branch of *Ficus carica*, and another specimen was found inside a dead branch (3 cm in diameter) in the Quadisha Valley (Fig. 27). Specimens from Syria were reared from branches of *Cercis siliquastrum*. First record for Syria.

*Phymatodes testaceus* (Linnaeus, 1758)

Material examined – “LEBANON, Northern gov., Bcharre env., 1 km E Ariz, Horsh Arz el-Rab, ancient *Cedrus* forest, swept & singled, 34° 14’ 33” N, 36° 2’ 59” E, 1900 m, 30.V.–VI.7.2015, leg. A. Márkus & T. Németh” [pupae from beneath bark of *Quercus cedrorum*] (10 males, 11 females, PCAM); “LEBANON, Northern gov., Tannourine env., 2 km N Harissa, Tannourine Cedars Nat. Reserve, 34° 12’ 34” N, 35° 55’ 45” E, 1750 m, 23.V.2015, leg. A. Márkus” [from beneath bark of *Quercus cedrorum* adult] (1 female, PCAM); “LEBANON, Northern gov., Ehden, Horsh Ehden Natural Reserve, singled, 34° 18’ 33” N, 35° 59’ 14” E, 1525 m, 21.V.–VI.7.2015, leg. M. Boustani, A. Márkus & T. Németh” [from beneath bark of *Quercus cedrorum* adults and pupae] (8 males, 4 females, PCAM, 1 male, 1 female, HNHM); “LEBANON, Northern gov., Tannourine env., 2 km N Harissa, Tannourine Cedars Nat. Reserve, singled, Eco-Dalida Resort, 34° 12’ 34” N, 35° 55’ 45” E, 1750 m, 16.VI.2016, leg. A. Kotán, P. Nemes & T. Németh” [probably emerged from stacked oak logs] (5 males, 7 females, PCAK, 1 male, HNHM).

Distribution – Transpalaearctic; introduced to North America (Danilevsky 2016). First record for Lebanon.

*Pedostrangalia riccardoi carmelita* Sama, 1996

(Figs 22–23)

Material examined – “LEBANON, Northern gov., Bcharre env., Quadisha Valley, swept & singled, 34° 14’ 57” N, 35° 58’ 34” E, 970 m, 27.V.2015, leg. M. Boustani, A. Márkus, T. Németh & M. Rehayem” (1 male, PCAM); “LEBANON, Northern gov., Bcharre env., 1 km E Ariz, Horsh Arz el-Rab, ancient Cedrus for-
Figs 24–25. Live individuals, 24 = *Leiopus syriacus syriacus* (Ganglbauer, 1884), 25 = *Libanoelytus tommasi* Sama, Rapuzzi et Kairouz, 2010

Figs 26–27. Collecting sites, 26 = Horsh Arz el-Rab, ancient *Cedrus libani* forest, 27 = Quadisha Valley (all photos T. Németh)

Distribution – Israel (Danilevsky 2016). First record for Lebanon.

Acknowledgements – Thanks are due to Nabil Nemer (USEK) and Charbel Tawk (Committee of Cedar Forest Friends, Bcharre, Lebanon) for the organisation of the travel, the accomplishment of the project and hospitality. We are grateful to Oscar Akiki, Mira Boustani, Attila Kotán, Petra Nemes, Martine Rehayem and Wael Yammine for the tireless and unselfish help in the field work. We thank Gábor Csorba (deputy general director, HNHM) without whom these trips could not be realised. Special thanks for Mikhail Danilevsky (Moscow) for input on the manuscript.

REFERENCES


