

Amphimallon sithoniense sp. n. from Greece (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae)

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Received October 29, 1997; accepted February 19, 1998

Published March 30, 1998

Abstract. *Amphimallon sithoniense* sp. n. discovered in the Sithonia peninsula (Chalkidiki, Greece) is described. The new species is assigned to the *A. solstitiale* (Linnaeus, 1758) species group and differs from all other known representatives of the group mainly by the antennal club being considerably longer than antennal shaft (antennomeres 1-6 combined), while in the rest of species antennal club is not reaching the length of antennal shaft.

Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Scarabaeidae, Melolonthinae, Palaearctic region

The palaearctic melolonthine genus *Amphimallon* Lepeletier et Serville, 1825 is known to occur in Europe (including England and Scandinavia), North Africa, Asia Minor, Caucasus, Middle and Central Asia and northern China (Baraud 1992, Medvedev 1951, Nikolaev 1987). Almost 40 species inhabiting Europe can be classified in four groups (Baraud 1992).

A spectacular new species with remarkably long antennal club discovered in Greek Macedonia (Chalkidiki, Sithonia peninsula) is described in the present paper (Fig. 5).

Specimens of the described species are provided with one red label: "Amphimallon sithoniense sp. n., HOLOTYPE or PARATYPE [with handwritten No and sex symbol for male], David Král det. 1997 [p]". Exact label data are cited for the type material. Author's remarks and complementations are found in square brackets, [p] preceding data within quotation are printed.

Amphimallon sithoniense sp. n. (Figs 1-5)

TYPE MATERIAL. Holotype and paratypes Nos 1-15 (all males), labelled "GR [=Greece]: Sithonia [peninsula], Vourvourou [village], 20.VI.-4.VII.1992, P. Průdek leg. [p]". Holotype and paratypes Nos 1-8 deposited in David Král collection (Praha), paratypes Nos 9-13 in Petr Pacholátko collection (Brno) and paratypes Nos 14-15 in Milan Nikodým collection (Praha).

DESCRIPTION. Male. Body length 13.2-16.0 mm (holotype 15.2 mm). Body elongate, only inconspicuously dilated posteriad. Dorsal surface shiny; colour dark reddish brown, head (except for clypeus), anterior and lateral clypeal margins, narrow margin around whole pronotum and elytral suture dark blackish brown to black; side of pronotum with pale brown longitudinal strip. Ventral surface shiny, head appendages and extremities pale brown, external protibial dentes blackish apically. Setation pale, ventrally to whitish.

Head (Fig. 1). Labrum distinctly bilobed, laterally with several long setae. Clypeus bare, with considerably upturned margin, anteriorly shallowly but distinctly emarginate, angles rounded, sides slightly divergent posteriad; surface deeply, simply and regularly punctate, punctures separated by more than twice their diameter. Frontoclypeal suture present. Frons bare with distinctly developed, medially slightly interrupted transversal ridge; anteriorly with approximately same punctation as in clypeus but rather more irregular; punctation posteriorly consisting of large, irregularly

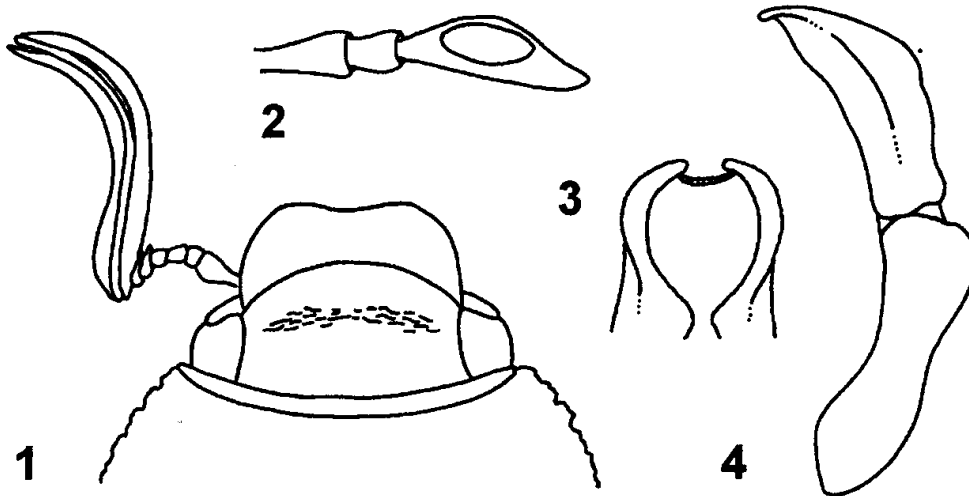
spaced, confluent punctures. Eye canthus bearing long, erect setae; angle between lateral margin of clypeus and canthus obtuse. Antenna (Fig. 1) with nine antennomeres; antennomere 2 trapezoidal and longer than antennomere 3, antennomere 3 and 4 almost oblong, antennomeres 5 and 6 transversal; club trimerous, considerably long (length of club : length of shaft ratio = 1.4 : 1.0), strongly curved externad, all antennomeres of club of the same length. Terminal maxillary palpomere elongate, with dorsolateral sensorium area elongate and opaque; palpomere 4 longer than palpomeres 2-3 combined (Fig. 2).

Pronotum transversal, widest approximately at middle, moderately narrowed anteriorly, each side with two shallow rounded depressions and in some specimens with hardly indicated longitudinal flattened area in basal half; all around rimmed; anterior margin almost straight, anterior corner broadly obtuseangled with rounded apex, side broadly rounded, posterior corner obtuseangled with rounded apex; lateral margin moderately serrate, each of 12-18 notches bearing very long, posterolaterad curved seta; surface bare except for row of sparse, short, erect setae in anterior rim and group of several recumbent setae medially near basal margin; punctuation rather irregular, simple, consisting of coarse punctures, separated by approximately 1-3 their diameter.

Scutellum triangulate, apical margin rounded, covered with punctures similar to those in pronotum.

Elytron absent from humeral denticle; striae indicated by rows of densely (to confluent) and somewhat irregularly spaced punctures; intervals 1, 3, 5, 7 only inconspicuously convex, intervals 2, 4, 6 flat, interval 2 discally distinctly wider than the other; punctuation coarse, irregular, often confluent; external margin with row of unequal, laterad or lateroposteriad oriented setae being shorter than in marginal row of pronotum; surface covered with very sparse, short, semierect setae, basally, in area adjacent to scutellum intermixed with sparse, very long (same length as in marginal row of pronotum), semierect setae.

Ventral surface of thorax completely covered with very dense, long, semierect to recumbent setation. All femora densely, irregularly punctate, with long semierect setation. Protibia tridentate, basal dens subobsolete; terminal calcar inserting against emargination between apical and medial dentes. Claws regularly curved, with perpendicular basal dens.



Figs 1-4. *Amphimallon sithoniense* sp. n. (holotype). 1 - habitus with left antenna, 2 - left maxillary palpus, 3 - apical part of aedeagus, 4 - aedeagus, lateral aspect; all figures except for Fig. 4 in dorsal aspect.

Propygidium finely, densely punctate; pygidium except for basal margin rimmed, apically with several long setae arising from rim, punctation fine, superficial to subobsolete. Ventriles 2–5 with transversal row of semierect long setae.

Aedeagus of typical shape in *Amphimallon* (Figs 3–4).

Female unknown.

DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS. *Amphimallon sithoniense* sp. n. is classified in *A. solstitiale* species group sensu Baraud (1992). The group comprises species with the following complex of diagnostic characters: pronotum at least in anterior rim setaceous, all elytral intervals shiny, odd intervals (1, 3, 5, 7) flat or only hardly convex; basal dens of protibia subobsolete or entirely absent; terminal calcar of protibia inserting against emargination between apical and medial dentes. The new species can be distinguished from all so far known species of the group by considerably long antennal club being longer than antennal shaft (antennomeres 1–6). In the rest of so far known species antennal club is shorter than antennal shaft.

NAME DERIVATION. The new species is named after Sithonia, the central peninsula of Chalkidiki, where the type locality lies.

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to my wife Regina for finishing the line drawings, Vladimír Vohralík (Charles University, Praha) who helped me with artwork of the map and Jitka Vilimová (Charles University, Praha) for reading the manuscript.

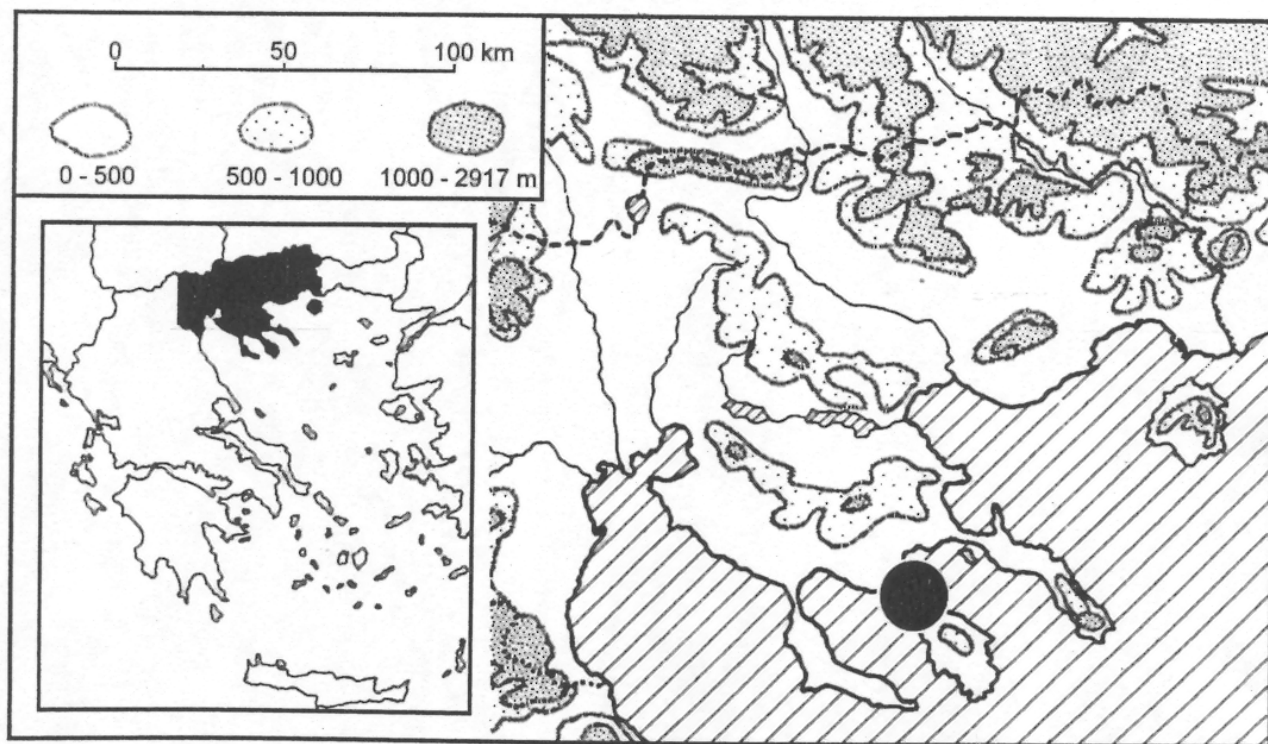


Fig 5. Sketch map of Greek Macedonia with the type locality of *Amphimallon sithoniense* sp. n.

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