

**AN INTERESTING OBSERVATION ON *PHYTOECIA*
(*HELLADIA*) *PRAETEXTATA* (STEVEN, 1817) FROM TURKEY
(COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE: LAMIINAE)**

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ABSTRACT: The paper gives an interesting observation from Çankırı province of a color variation [*Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* that was described by Reitter (1898) from Caucasus (Armenia: Nakhichevan: Araxesthal, Ordubad)] of *Phytoecia* (*Helladia*) *praetextata* (Steven, 1817).

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, *Phytoecia* (*Helladia*) *praetextata*, Turkey

The species *Phytoecia praetextata* (Steven, 1817) is in the subgenus *Helladia* Fairmaire, 1864. It includes two subspecies as the nominal subspecies and *Phytoecia praetextata nigricollis* Pic, 1891. The nominal subspecies is distributed in South-Eastern Europe (Bulgaria, Romania, South parts of European Russia, Ukraine and European Turkey), Caucasus (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia) and Asian Turkey. The other subspecies *Phytoecia praetextata nigricollis* is distributed only in Syria and South of Asian Turkey. While *Phytoecia praetextata nigricollis* Pic, 1891 has no synonym taxa, *Phytoecia praetextata praetextata* (Steven, 1817) has a synonym taxon as *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898.

The nominal subspecies was reported Asian Turkey (Ankara, Bayburt, Bolu, Düzce, Erzincan, Erzurum, Gümüşhane, Kastamonu, Sivas and Zonguldak provinces) and European Turkey (Kırklareli province) from Turkey (Tozlu et al., 2003; Özdikmen & Hasbenli, 2004; Özdikmen & Demir, 2006; Özdikmen, 2006, 2007, 2011; Sama et al., 2012; Özdikmen et al., 2012; Georgiev et al., 2015). Namely it is known only from North of Turkey for Turkey.

Phytoecia praetextata var. *nigricollis* was described by Pic (1891) from Akbez (Turkey, Hatay province) as a variety. This subspecies is easily distinguished from nominal subspecies by entirely black pronotum and even extended and widened sutural black band. It was reported Adana, Hatay and İçel provinces from Turkey (Pic, 1891; Breuning, 1951; Demelt, 1963; Öymen, 1987; Adlbauer, 1988; Rejzek et al., 2001; Sama et al., 2012). Namely it is known only from Southern Anatolia for Turkey.

Also *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* was described by Reitter (1898) from Caucasus (Armenia: Nakhichevan: Araxesthal, Ordubad) as a variety. According to Reitter (1898), this variety is similar to the forma typica, but the longitudinal black sutural band of elytra is absent. However, two ordinary black spots on shoulders and on anterior parts of lateral margins are present (Fig. 1). It is accepted as a synonym of *Phytoecia praetextata praetextata* (Steven, 1817). This color variation of *Phytoecia praetextata* (Steven, 1817) is known only from type locality.

Many specimens of *Phytoecia praetextata* (Steven, 1817) from Ankara, Bolu, Düzce, Gümüşhane, Kastamonu, Sivas and Zonguldak provinces have been reported by the first author from Turkey until now (Özdikmen & Hasbenli, 2004; Özdikmen & Demir, 2006; Özdikmen, 2006, 2007, 2011; Özdikmen et al., 2012). All mentioned specimens from Northern Anatolia are similar to typical form of *Phytoecia praetextata* (Steven, 1817) undoubtedly. Thus these belong to the nominal subspecies of *P. praetextata*.

Besides, we had the opportunity to study of new material of *P. praetextata* collected during the expedition of Çankırı province in 2015 and a color variation, *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898, of the species was firstly detected from Turkey (Fig. 2). Although specimen from Çankırı province of *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898 is somewhat different from typical population by having a small reduced black area just after scutellar area and yellowish elytral coloration (Fig. 2).

As seen below, 4 specimens were collected from Çankırı province in 2015. Three of them belong to the typical form of nominal subspecies and one of them is similar to *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898. Consequently, *Phytoecia praetextata* (Steven, 1817) is new to Çankırı province, while *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898 is new to Turkey.

Material examined:

As *Phytoecia praetextata praetextata* (Steven, 1817): Çankırı prov.: Ilgaz, Gökçeyazı village, 40°57'27" N, 33°29'42" E, 1020 m, 29.V.2015, 1 specimen; Çankırı prov.: Ilgaz, exit of Kırşlar village, 40°56'5" N, 33°29'9" E, 914 m, 17.VI.2015, 1 specimen; Çankırı prov.: Ilgaz, Candere-Sazak-Hacı Hasan return, 40°55'29" N, 33°39'29" E, 885 m, 18.VI.2015, 1 specimen.

As *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898: Çankırı prov.: Ilgaz, exit of Kırşlar village, 40°56'5" N, 33°29'9" E, 914 m, 17.VI.2015, 1 specimen.

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Figure 1. *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898 from Armenia: Nakhichevan: Araxesthal, Ordubad (Holotype, ex collection Edmund Reitter, Magyar Természettudományi Múzeum, Budapest).

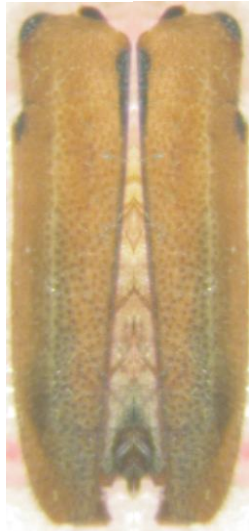


Figure 1. Elytral coloration of *Phytoecia praetextata* var. *implagiata* Reitter, 1898 from Çankırı province in Turkey.