VADONIA ALBANICA SP. NOV. - DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES FROM ALBANIA (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: A new species, *Vadonia albanica* sp. nov., is described from Albania. It was compared to the species of his *Vadonia* family – *Vadonia saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855) / *Vadonia mainoldii* Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2004 / *Vadonia insidiosa* Holzschuh, 1984.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lepturinae, *Vadonia*, new species, Albania, Palaearctic region

Vadonia albanica sp. nov.

(Figs. 1A,B, 2)

The new species was discovered in the central-western area of Balkan, in the territory of Albania, Noja area, which is located in the western zone of the Kombëtar National Park (Qafé Shtamë). The whole area is situated 30 km west of Tiranë. For the time being, it is a species endemic to Albania. All morphological characters, including the male aedeagus of the new species *V. albanica* sp. nov., were compared with those of all the species of the genus *Vadonia* Mulsant, 1863 occurring in Balkan. First of all, it was possible to exclude the whole group of the "*unipunctata"* subspecies, since there was no agreement in the shape of the aedeagus having an axe-like shape, which is very characteristic of *"unipunctata"* species / subspecies. Thereafter, it was possible to exclude all the species having only one spine on the male metatibia, since the new species has two spines. There are thus only three species exerting similar characters, which should be compared with the new species.

The new species *V. albanica* sp. nov., was compared with the species *V. saucia* (Mulsant-Godart, 1855), *V. mainoldii* Pesarini-Sabbadini, 2004 and *V. insidiosa* Holzschuh, 1984, which occur in Balkan. I have representatives of all these species in my collection, and in addition, the collection comprises all the species of the genus *Vadonia* Mulsant, 1863.

HOLOTYPE: Male – Albania, Noja, 19.6.2013 (lgt. D. Hrebeň, coll. J. Vartanis).
PARATYPES: 3 x males – Albania, Noja-park Kombëtar, Qafé Shtamë, 25.6.2017 (lgt., coll. J. Vartanis).

Length: Males 13-15 mm.
Body: Completely black including all legs and antennae. Abdominal ventrites with long, decumbent and very dense pubescence aiming at one direction.
Head: On vertex and temples with long, decumbent pubescence. Head surface very densely and finely punctate.
Antennae: Black, with decumbent pubescence, not serrate. None of antennomeres dilated. Male antennae very long, reaching to 2/3 elytra.
Pronotum: Black, shining and very finely punctate. The whole surface with dense, yellow pubescence. The setae long and decumbent, not erect on sides.

Elytra: Brown, shining, elytral suture and apex black. Each elytron with a very wide black spot. Black spot shape is of importance for characterization within framework of genus *Vadonia* Mulsant, 1863. Elytra 2.3 times longer than wide at humeri. Covered by yellow pubescence: longer from humeri to 1/3 elytra length, shorter on remaining elytral surface. Pubescence very decumbent throughout elytra.
Legs: Black, with decumbent, yellow pubescence throughout their surfaces including femora. Male metatibia apically extended to produce two spines. Metatarsi long, basal metatarsomere as long as metatarsomere 2 and metatarsomere 3 including its claw combined.
Aedeagus: Very characteristic of the species, differentiating it from all species occurring in Balkan as listed above. Aedeagus tip stepwise reaching to apex and being moderately dilated on the very apex. This characteristic shape differentiates the new species from other taxa and offers a very considerable feature for identification of species within the framework of the genus *Vadonia* Mulsant, 1863 where the aedeagus shape plays principal role.

Extension of *Vadonia* species.
1 – *Vadonia albanica* sp. nov. - Albania
2 – *Vadonia saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855) - Ukraine, Romania
3 – *Vadonia mainoldii* Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2004 – Greece
4 – *Vadonia insidiosa* Holzschuh, 1984 – Greece

Differential diagnosis. The new species *Vadonia albanica* sp. nov. has been compared with all the species of the genus, particularly with those occurring in Balkan, namely with the species *V. saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855) / *V. mainoldii* Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2004 and *V. insidiosa* Holzschuh, 1984.

All morphological characters applicable to the species differentiation were compared. The new species falls into a group of larger species within the framework of the genus. The principal differentiating character of the new species is the shape of the male aedeagus. The whole group of all the "*unipunctata"* species/subspecies exert axe-like shapes of the aedeagus parameres, which makes a considerable difference. In the species *V. saucia* (Mulsant & Godart, 1855) the aedeagus tip is in the shape of an arrow, thus being very characteristic of that species. In the species *V. mainoldii* Pesarini & Sabbadini, 2004 the tip of the aedeagus is very elongate and exerts quite different parameters. In the species *V. insidiosa* Holzschuh, 1984 the aedeagus is quite not narrowed toward the apex and not dilated on the tip, which is a situation quite opposite to the species *V. albanica* sp. nov.. At the present time, the new species is known from the area of the Noja-Parc Kombëtar (Qafé Shtamë), in the north-western Albania. For the time being, it should be considered as a species endemic to the area in question, but its possible occurrence at neighbouring locations cannot be excluded. Occurrence on plant " Phlomis fruticosa ".

Etymology: The new species *V. albanica* sp. nov., was named after the country Albania currently taking a large territory of Balkan.

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A **B**

Figure 1. *Vadonia albanica* sp. nov., A. holotype, male; B. aedeagus.

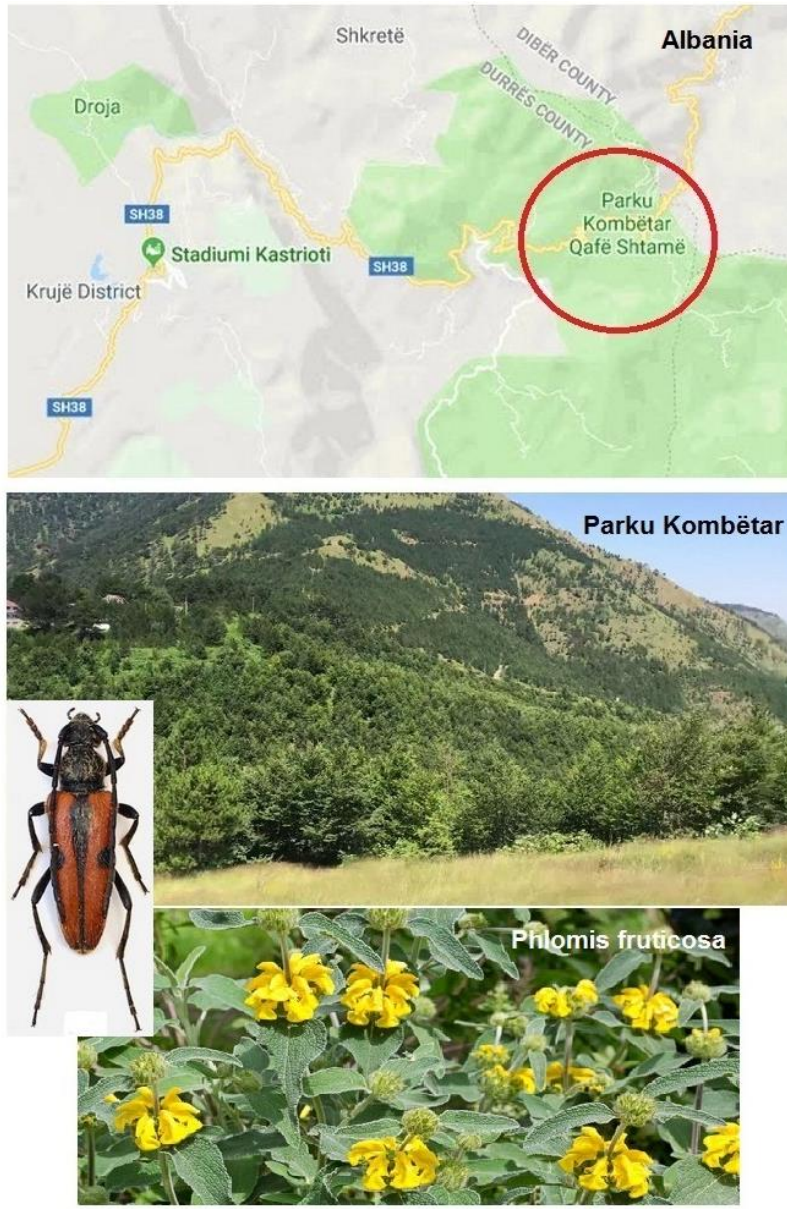

Figure 2. Albania, Noja-park Kombëtar.