

# Contribution to the knowledge of the Iraqi fauna of Longhorn beetles (Coleoptera Cerambycidae)

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## ABSTRACT

The Iraqi fauna of Cerambycidae is still under-researched. This article contributes to the knowledge of the Cerambycidae fauna of Iraq by reviewing the updated literature, and reporting *Phytoecia* (*Paracoptosia*) *urartica* Kasatkin, 2015, as a new record for the Iraqi fauna. Furthermore, this article also includes an additional Southern distributional range and interesting localities of the recently described species, *Dorcadion* (*Cribridorcadion*) *ringenbachii* Rapuzzi et Sama, 2018, and the Middle East widespread *Purpuricenus wachanrui* Levrat, 1858.

## KEY WORDS

Cerambycinae, Lamiinae, *Purpuricenus*, *Phytoecia*, *Dorcadion*, Kurdistan, new record.

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## INTRODUCTION

Longhorn beetles (Cerambycidae) are considered one of the most diverse, largest, and ecologically important families of Coleoptera (Wang 2017, Rossa & Goczał, 2021). These beetles play important roles in the forests as pollinators and scavengers (Rossa & Goczał, 2021). Their distributions are mostly concentrated in the Oriental and Neotropical realms and slightly less in the Palearctic realm (Wang, 2017, Rossa & Goczał, 2021).

The Iraqi fauna of Cerambycidae is still under-researched. Regional and local wars, besides the unstable political situation, complicate the faunal surveying processes. Based on the literature, the current Iraqi fauna includes 64 species of Cerambycidae within 33 genera and 5 subfamilies (Danilevsky, 2020). Only few studies have been

published on the Fauna of Iraq (Ismail, 1983, 2016; Özdikmen & Ali, 2012, 2017; Özdikmen et al., 2014) and this means that new research must be carried on in order to have a complete idea about its composition.

This article adds a new distributional range and localities for some species as *Purpuricenus wachanrui* Levrat, 1858 and *Dorcadion* (*Cribridorcadion*) *ringenbachii* Rapuzzi et Sama, 2018. Furthermore, *Phytoecia* (*Paracoptosia*) *urartica* Kasatkin, 2015 is added as a new record to the Cerambycidae fauna in Iraq.

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

The beetle specimens were collected manually, labeled, and mounted. Details of the morphology

were investigated with a binocular Wild M3 stereo microscope. The pictures of prepared specimens were taken with a digital camera Olympus Stylus Tough TG4, with an optical zoom 4.5–18.0 mm, 1:2.0–4.9. The specimens are deposited in the insect collection of P. Rapuzzi.

## RESULTS

Subfamilia CERAMBYCINAE Latreille, 1802  
Tribus TRACHYDERINI Dupont, 1836  
Genus *Purpuricen* Dejean, 1821

*Purpuricen* *wachanrui* Levrat, 1858

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Iraq, Kurdistan Region, Sulaymaniyah, Sharbazher, Basneh, Hazar Kanian Mountain, 35°54'06"N 45°33'57"S, 2 males and 2 females, 3.VI.2023, 1900 m a.s.l. legit Farhad A. Khudhur and examined by Pierpaolo Rapuzzi.

REMARKS. The species was first described by Gustav Levrat (1858) from Turkey and is geographically widespread in the Middle East (Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey). It was added for the first time to the Iraqi fauna by Özdikmen & Ali (2012) based on preserved museum material collected in May, 1981 from Erbil (Arbil) Province, Haj Omaran, Rayat. Here we are adding a new locality which is located further south (more than 100 km) from Rayat Village.

Subfamilia LAMIINAE Latreille, 1825  
Tribus LAMIINI Latreille, 1825  
Genus *Dorcadion* Dalman, 1817  
Subgenus *Cribridorcadion* Pic, 1901

*Dorcadion* (*Cribridorcadion*) *ringenbachi* Rapuzzi et Sama, 2018 (Fig. 1)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Iraq, Kurdistan Region, Erbil, Choman, Weze Village, 36°42'29"N 44°23'32"E, 2 males, 7.V.2023, 2000 m a.s.l. leg. Farhad A. Khudhur. Iraq, Kurdistan Region, Sulaymaniyah, Sharbazher, Basneh, Hazar Kanian Mountain, 35°54'06"N - 45°33'57"S, 1 male, 3.VI.2023, 1900 m a.s.l. legit Farhad A. Khudhur and examined by Pierpaolo Rapuzzi (Figs 3, 4).

REMARKS. This species was recently described

for the first time by Rapuzzi & Sama (2018), on the bases of two specimens that were collected from Iraqi Kurdistan, Erbil Province, Choman, Galala district, 36°39'53"N 44°47'47"E, 14.V.2012 at 2560 m a.s.l., legit J.C. Ringenbach.

Tribus SAPERDINI Mulsant, 1839  
Genus *Phytoecia* Dejean, 1835  
Subgenus *Paracoptosia* Danilevsky, 2017

*Phytoecia* (*Paracoptosia*) *urartica* Kasatkin, 2015 (Fig. 2)

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Iraq, Kurdistan Region, Sulaymaniyah, Sharbazher, Basneh, Hazar Kanian Mountain, 35°54'06"N 45°33'57"S, 1 male, 3.VI.2023, 1900 m a.s.l. legit Farhad A. Khudhur and examined by Pierpaolo Rapuzzi (Fig. 5).

REMARKS. This species was described by Kasatkin (2015) from Turkey, Muş Province, 4 km SW Varto Village, near Taşdibek, 17–18.V.2009. Other specimens used for further description were collected in Iran, West Azerbaijan Province, near Piranshahr district, in 17.V.2015 at 2100 m a.s.l., and Azerbaijan, “Kaukasus, Lenkoran, v. Bode-meyer”. Few records were reported later on from West Iran, Āzarbāyjān-e Gharbī province and Ardabīl province (<http://www.cerambyx.uochb.cz>).

## DISCUSSION

The most important piece of knowledge that we are contributing in this article is the further Southern distributional range of these three species of Cerambycidae. In previous works on the fauna of Cerambycidae in Iraq, the records were mostly focused on the materials from the most Northern parts of the Iraqi Kurdistan region in Duhok and Erbil Provinces (Özdikmen & Ali, 2017, Rapuzzi & Sama, 2018). The Sulaymaniyah Province in the south east of the region is slightly less surveyed (Özdikmen & Ali, 2012, Özdikmen et al., 2014). However, it may harbor several other species of long horn beetles, since the province is more mountainous from its Northern to its Southern borders. Indeed there are several mountain picks above 2000 m a.s.l.

Related to the endemic *Dorcadion* (*Cribridorcadion*) *ringenbachi* to the Iraqi Kurdistan territo-



Figure 1. *Dorcadion ringenbachi*, Iraq, Kurdistan Region, Sulaymaniyah, Sharbazher, Basneh, Hazar Kanian Mountain.



Figure 2. *Phytoecia (Paracoptosia) urartica*, Iraq, Kurdistan Region, Sulaymaniyah, Sharbazher, Basneh, Hazar Kanian Mountain.

ries (Rapuzzi & Sama, 2018), we are adding these new localities of its distribution in both the Provinces of Erbil and Sulaymaniyah. These findings expand its distribution into a larger geographical area, since it remains endemic to Iraq Kurdistan.

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#### Website

<http://www.cerambyx.uochb.cz>