

Studies on the genus *Anthelephila* (Coleoptera: Anthicidae)

11. New species and records from India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Oman

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Abstract. Fifteen new species of *Anthelephila* Hope, 1833 are described: *Anthelephila adivasi* sp. nov., *A. bacillipes* sp. nov., *A. interposita* sp. nov., *A. kailasa* sp. nov., *A. kali* sp. nov., *A. lubopetra* sp. nov., *A. maharani* sp. nov., *A. pateva* sp. nov., *A. sevciki* sp. nov., *A. triungula* sp. nov., *A. tryznai* sp. nov. (all India), *A. bheri* sp. nov., *A. comes* sp. nov., *A. vishnumati* sp. nov. (all Nepal), and *A. insperata* sp. nov. (Oman). Male characters of *Anthelephila umbratilis* (Krekich-Strassoldo, 1928) are figured. New faunistic records of *Anthelephila* from India, Sri Lanka and Nepal are given.

Key words. Coleoptera, Anthicidae, *Anthelephila*, taxonomy, new species, faunistics, Oriental Region, Palearctic Region

Introduction

This is another paper in the series devoted to the taxonomy and faunistics of the large Old World genus *Anthelephila* Hope, 1833 (KEJVAL 2006, 2007). It deals, among others, with the major part of collections from my four expeditions to India and Sri Lanka in 1993–1994, 1999, 2003 and 2006. It is not, however, a complete treatment of the expedition results. Some other data have already been published (KEJVAL 2002a, 2005, 2007), and *A. antiqua* (Krekich-Strassoldo, 1919), *A. mutillaria* Saunders, 1834, *A. maindroni* (Pic, 1903) and members of the difficult *A. bramina* species-group are omitted as they will be covered in separate revisional papers. Altogether 46 species are treated, including 15 newly described species.

Anthelephila is most diverse in the tropical regions of Africa and Southeast Asia. Adults are apparently scavengers, opportunistic predators and mycophages, and they are mostly collected by sweeping or beating vegetation (KEJVAL 2003). HEBERDEY (1934) summarized the results of collections of anthicids on sandal tree (*Santalum album*) suffering from spike disease, and *Anthelephila* clearly dominated in the examined material (nine of 20 species, 86% of specimens). Based on my field experience, numerous Indian species seem to be rather adaptable, living in seminatural habitats such as tree plantations and gardens, and strictly