**Galbella (Galbella) holzschuhi** sp. nov. from Iran 
(Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

Mark G. VOLKOVITSH

Zoological Institute RAN, Universitetskaya nab. 1, R–199034 Sankt Petersburg, Russia
e-mail: polycest@zin.ru

**Abstract.** *Galbella (Galbella) holzschuhi* sp. nov. from Iran is described, illustrated and compared with its Eastern Mediterranean congener, *G. felix* (Marseul, 1866). A checklist of Western Palaearctic species of *Galbella* Westwood, 1848 is provided.

**Taxonomy, new species, checklist, Coleoptera, Buprestidae, Galbella, Iran, Palaearctic region**

**INTRODUCTION**

The genus *Galbella* Westwood, 1848 is one of the most enigmatic buprestid taxa whose taxonomic position and relations are still disputable (see history and discussions in Bellamy & Holm 1986; Bellamy 2000; Volkovitsh & Bílý 2001; Bellamy 2003). Originally it was placed in Trachysini (e.g. Marseul 1866; Kerremans 1892; Obenberger 1937), most recently as a subtribe Galbellina (Holyński 1993; Bellamy 2000) based mainly on its trachysine habitus and partial resemblance to *Pachyschelus* Solier, 1833. Another concept is a separation of *Galbella* as a distinct monogeneric subfamily (Reitter 1911; Bellamy 1985; Cobos 1986; Volkovitsh 2001; Volkovitsh & Bílý 2001; Bellamy 2003; Bílý et al. 2006). Based on cladistic analysis Kolibáč (2000) attributed to Galbellinae the polycestine tribe Haplostethini (Mastogenini) and the trachysine genera *Leiopleura* Deyrolle, 1865, *Pachyschelus*, *Brachys* Dejean, 1833, and their relatives. Though the subfamiliar level of Galbellinae is now a prevalent viewpoint, its relation to polycestine-buprestine (Volkovitsh 2001; Volkovitsh & Bílý 2001) or agriline (Kolibáč 2000) lineages invites further investigations.

The Palaearctic fauna of *Galbella* is rather poor compared to that of Old World tropical regions - only six species has been recorded so far ( Bílý et al. 2006) of which four species seem to reach the Palaearctic from the Afrotropical region. By this reason, the discovery of a new species in Iran is of great interest for buprestid taxonomy and biogeography. Further findings may be easily predicted from South Eastern Palaearctic (Yunnan), either endemic for this area or reaching from the species-rich Oriental region.

Acronyms and abbreviations used throughout the text:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CHCV</td>
<td>private collection of Carolus Holzschuh, Villach, Austria;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DBCR</td>
<td>private collection of Daniele Baiocchi, Rome, Italy;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NMPC</td>
<td>National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VKCB</td>
<td>private collection of Vítězslav Kubáň, Brno, Czech Republic;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ZIN</td>
<td>Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Measurements and ratios: L – body length; S – body maximal width; L/W – body length/width ratio; L/Wel – elytra length/width ratio; W/Lprn – pronotum width /length ratio; W/
Volkovitsh M.: *Galbella (Galbella) holzschuhi* sp. nov. from Iran (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

Lprs – width between the distal ends of antennal grooves to central length of prosternum; Wf/Wv – width of frons at antennal fossae level/width at vertex ratio; Wv/Wo – width at vertex/width of eye ratio; Lant/Ho – antennal length/height of eye ratio.

**TAXONOMIC PART**

**Subfamily Galbellinae Reitter, 1911**

**Genus *Galbella* Westwood, 1848**

*Galbella* Westwood, 1848: 83.
Type species: *Galbella violacea* Westwood, 1848 (by monotypy).

According to Bellamy (2003) the genus comprises three subgenera and 83 species distributed in the Afrotropical (including Madagascar), Oriental, and Palaearctic regions. Afrotropical species were revised by Bellamy & Holm (1986) and Bellamy (2000); Holyński (1985) synonymised 17 specific and infraspecific names of Asian *Galbella* under the type species name which is highly debatable (Bellamy 2000).

*Galbella (Galbella) holzschuhi* sp. nov.
(Figs. 1-6, 13-18, 22-24, 28-29)

**Type locality:** Central Iran, Yazd, 40 km southwest of Harat, Baqe-Shadi [= Bare-Shadi, 29°48′N 54°18′E], 2100 m.

**Type specimens.** Holotype ♀ (CHCV): “Iran, Yasd, 40 km SW Harat, Bare-Shadi, 2100 m, 2-3.VII.2004, leg. C. Holzschuh”.
Paratypes (3 ♂♂, 8 ♀♀): same label (1 ♂, 7 ♀♀, CHCV, ZIN) [all specimens were beaten from the foliage of *Pistacia* trees]; “Iran, Fārs, 40 km N Fasa, Mian Jangal, 1750 m, 29°10′N-53°23′E, 15.IV.2007, Baiocchi leg. // ex larva *Pistacia* sp. 15 May 2007” (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀, DBCR, NMPC).

**Description.** Body (Figs. 1-2, 13) small, trachysine, elongate oval, subparallel, convex with defined dorsal curvature; L: 4.3-5.6 (5.0) mm, W: 2.0-2.7 (2.4) mm, L/W: 2.04-2.15 (2.10) (n = 9); bicolorous: head, pronotum, body ventrally, and appendages black with dull bluish reflection, scutellum blackish-blue, elytra bright, metallic purple, purple-violet or golden-purple, here and there with blue, violet or golden reflection, basal, lateral, and sutural margins and apices golden; dorsally glabrous, head with short inconspicuous pale setae, ventrally with short sparse pale setae, abdominal sternite 2 with medial setal patch at anterior margin (Figs. 13-14).

Head (Figs. 1-3, 5-6) weakly convex as viewed from above (Fig. 1), angularly produced with straight or slightly concave anterior margin when seen at an angle (Fig. 5); Wv/Wo: 1.79-2.10 (1.97), Wf/Wv: 1.52-1.64 (1.61). Eyes large, dorsilaterally situated, slightly projecting beyond head outline (Figs. 1, 5), narrowly ovate as viewed from the side (Fig. 2). Vertex regularly convex with smooth, sometimes finely elevated medial line. Frons regularly convex, with small shallow medial fovea at anterior third and transverse depression above the clypeus frequently merged with frontal one forming single triangular depression; with sides markedly S-shaped and converging strongly to vertex (Fig. 3); anterior margin forming
Figs. 1-12. 1-6: *Galbella (Galbella) holzschuhi* sp. nov., paratype ♀, 5.2 mm. 1 – dorsal view; 2 – lateral view; 3 – head, frontal view; 4 – left antenna; 5 – head and pronotum, dorsal view; 6 – pro- and mesosternum, ventral view. 7-12: *G. (G.) felix* (Marseul), ♀, 5.4 mm. 7 – dorsal view; 8 – lateral view; 9 – left antenna; 10 – head, frontal view; 11 – head and pronotum, dorsal view; 12 – pro- and mesosternum, ventral view.
smoothed ledge above the clypeus. Frons with sculpture ocellate, denser at sides, vertex with sculpture reticulate formed by round, superficial, partly obliterated (horseshoe-shaped) umbilicate punctures with fine eccentric micropunctures bearing very fine inconspicuous pale setae shorter than diameter of punctures; intervals smooth or feebly shagreened, 0.5-1.5 times as wide as diameter of punctures. Clypeus very narrow, feebly emargined anteriorly, with lateral projections narrow and forming ventral margins of deep antennal grooves situated just beneath ventral margins of eyes and met prosternal antennal grooves (Fig. 6). Antennae (Fig. 4) relatively long, Lant/Ho: 1.57-1.73 (1.67), serratred from antennomere 5; antennomere 1 weakly curved, strongly expanded apically; antennomere 2 ovate, slightly longer than wide, less expanded than the apex of previous one; 3-4 similar, trapezoid, nearly as long as wide; antennomere 5 markedly widened, roundly triangular, scarcely wider than long; 6-10 triangular, strongly transverse, 1.8-2.2 times as wide as long; 11 foliaceous, narrow, 1.7 times as wide as long.

Pronotum (Figs. 1-2, 5) transverse, W/Lprn: 2.35-2.56 (2.46), widest at base; evenly convex, without basal fossae and medial depression; sides irregularly rounded; anterior margin weakly bisinuose, nearly straight, bordered with fine sulcus; basal margin slightly bisinuose, with poorly defined medial lobe and acute postero-lateral corners. Lateral carina distinct, entire, nearly straight, reaching anterior corners, bordered with narrow longitudinal depression along entire length. Pronotal sides with reticulate sculpture of partly obliterated umbilicate punctures forming inconspicuous concentric series; disc laterally with stronger obliterated and smaller punctures; disc medially with simple sparse punctuate sculpture of micropunctures on smooth shining background, intervals between punctures 3-4 times as wide as diameter of puncture (Fig. 5); pronotal base with 2-3 rows of distinct, transversely ovate punctures; surface glabrous. Scutellum (Figs. 1, 5) blackish-blue, nearly equilateral triangular, with angles acute. Prosternum (Figs. 6, 13) flattened, transverse, W/Lprs: 1.91 (n = 1); typical for Galbella species – with notopleural sutures completely lacking (these possibly form internal margin of antennal grooves), grooves for reception antennae deep, feebly arcuate; anterior margin deeply arcuatey emargined, bordered with fine sulcus; prosternal process triangular with rounded apex, slightly convex; prosternal sides with ca. 9 distinct concentric striae across entire base, parallel to and progressively longer approaching antennal grooves; prosternal disc medially with obliterated sparse umbilicate punctures; prosternal process with 2-3 punctuate striae laterally and a few umbilicate punctures medially. Hypomeron rather sharply expanded basal from anterior corners, distinctly expanded at basal portion. Mesosternum completely divided in the middle, lateral portions of ventrite transverse with acute external corners. Metasternum wide, with anterior process broad and truncate apically, covered with sparse fine punctures; longitudinal suture absent, transverse suture barely visible.

Elytra (Figs. 1-2) short, wide, L/Wel: 1.56-1.64 (1.59); bright, metallic purple, purple-violet or golden-purple, here and there with blue, violet or golden reflection, basal, lateral, and sutural margins and apical 1/3 laterally golden; regularly convex, with poorly defined but visible humeral swellings; sides slightly diverging at humeri, subparallel as far as midlength and then evenly, arcately converging to regularly rounded, barely diverging apices; lateral margins smooth, without serration. Epipleuron (Fig. 13) narrow, depressed longitudinally, bearing one row of punctures, separated from elytra by sharp carina bordered with narrow
Figs. 13-21. 13-18: *Galbella (Galbella) holzschuhi* sp. nov., paratype ♀, 5.1 mm. 13 – ventral view; 14 – abdominal sternites 1-2; 15 – abdominal sternites 4-5; 16 – fore leg; 17 – middle leg; 18 – hind leg. 19-21: *G. (G.) felix* (Marseul), ♂, 4.7 mm. 19 – ventral view; 20 – abdominal sternites 1-2; 21 – abdominal sternites 4-5.
premarginal depression, shifted ventrally, extending beyond hind coxae. Elytral striae relatively distinct, forming by golden superficial punctures with delicate micropunctures inside; 1st stria slightly impressed at posterior 2/3 of elytral length, 2nd and 3rd striae sometimes shortly impressed at posterior 1/3. Intervals glabrous, flat, sutural one slightly elevated at posterior 2/3, 5-7 times as wide as striae, with regularly uniseriate golden punctures similar to strial ones; punctures at posterior 1/3 partly obliterated, horseshoe-shaped, forming indistinct curved transverse series; lateral intervals with smoothed transverse rugosity.

Legs (Figs. 1, 13, 16-18) inserted within deep thoracic and abdominal depressions being tightly pressed against body in repose; black, sometimes with bluish sheen. Metacoxal plates (Figs. 13-14) distinctly widened sideward forming acute postero-lateral angle concealed by elytral epipleuron; posterior margin slightly emarginated. Tibiae (Figs. 16-18) strongly expanded and flattened, with deep longitudinal depressions to receive tarsi (Fig. 16); fore and middle tibiae with regularly serrate external margins (Figs. 16-17), hind tibia bearing comb of yellowish setae externally (Fig. 18); apical spurs of different length. Tarsi with pulvilli well developed on tarsomeres 1-4; 5th as long as four basal tarsomeres jointly, slightly expanded apically; Claws big and with large, broad, acute tooth on inner margin in both sexes.

Abdomen (Figs. 13-15) black with dull bluish sheen, bearing very short, sparse, decumbent, pale setae; suture between 1st and 2nd sternites represented by smooth line slightly projecting anteriorly, sutures between other sternites straight in the middle and sharply curved laterally, postero-lateral angles forming acute teeth. Sternite 2 with transverse medial setal patch forming by dense yellowish setae (Figs. 13-14) arising from arcuate or, rarely, brace-shaped transverse stria at anterior margin. Sides and discs of sternites 2-5 with umbilicate and horseshoe-shaped punctures, forming very fine longitudinal reticulate-striate sculpture with inner micropunctures (Figs. 13-14) on sternite 1 and delicate marginal concentric striae on sternite 5 (Fig. 15). Anal (5) sternite transverse with slightly upturned smooth apical margin, regularly serrate at sides and smooth at middle, with apex scarcely angularly projecting but not forming distinct tooth.

Male. Aedeagus (Figs. 22-24) relatively short; parameres strongly expanded toward anterior 1/3, with acute apices bearing groups of long setae externally, basal piece with short roundly-triangle ventral lobe and without distinct dorsal one; penis (Fig. 23) with elongate acute apex, internal sac bearing weakly sclerotized flagellum inside situated at the middle of its length (Figs. 23-24), basal processes (apophyses) well defined, slender, slightly curved.

Ovipositor (Figs. 28-29) uritiforme, strongly modified; styli large, weakly sclerotized and poorly visible behind long setae, distinctly expanded apically and bearing there long, dense, straight setae; ovipositor ventrally bearing row of very long dense setae with scoop-like tips (Fig. 29); lateral lobes with long dense normal setae.

Dimorphism. Not found.

Distribution. Central and southwestern Iran (Yazd, Fars).

Differential diagnosis. From all other Galbella species G. holzschuhi sp. nov. differs by sharply bicolorous body with elytra brightly metallic purple. The new species comes closest to the Eastern-Mediterranean G. felix (Marseul, 1866) in having metallic coloured elytra, very similar shape and disposition of the setal patch on abdominal sternite 2, longitudinal reticulate-striate sculpture on sternite 1, shape and sculpture of sternite 5, as well as male and female genital structures; both species are contrasted in Table 1.
Table 1. Diagnostic differences between *Galbella* (*Galbella*) *holzschuhi* sp. nov. and *G. (G.) felix*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Character</th>
<th><em>G. (G.) holzschuhi</em> sp. nov.</th>
<th><em>G. (G.) felix</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Body, coloration</td>
<td>Bicolorous: black, elytra brightly purple with violet and golden sheen</td>
<td>Unicolorous, brightly blue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Body, size:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>4.3-5.6 (5.0) (n = 9)</td>
<td>3.9-5.4 (4.4) (n = 10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>2.0-2.7 (2.4)</td>
<td>1.9-2.6 (2.2)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Figs. 22-30. 22-24: *Galbella* (*Galbella*) *holzschuhi* sp. nov., male genitalia, paratype ♂. 22 – tegmen (0.9 mm); 23 – penis (0.65 mm); 24 – internal sac of penis. 28, 29: the same, female genitalia, paratype. 28 – ovipositor (0.6 mm); 29 – scoop-like setae on anterior margin of ovipositor. 25-27: *G. (G.) felix* (Marseul), male genitalia. 25 – tegmen (1.05 mm); 26 – penis (0.6 mm); 27 – internal sac of penis. 30: the same, female genitalia, ovipositor (0.8 mm).
Volkovitsh M.: \textit{Galbella} (\textit{Galbella}) holzschuhi sp. nov. from Iran (Coleoptera: Buprestidae)

| Ratios: L/W | 2.04-2.15 (2.10) | 1.90-2.08 (1.99) |
| L/Wel | 1.56-1.64 (1.59) | 1.51-1.60 (1.57) |
| W/Lpm | 2.35-2.56 (2.46) | 2.22-2.80 (2.55) |
| W/Lprs | 1.91 (n = 1) | 2.02 (n = 1) |
| Wf/Wv | 1.52-1.67 (1.61) | 1.65-2.07 (1.80) |
| Wv/Wo | 1.79-2.10 (1.97) | 1.76-2.13 (1.94) |
| Lant/Ho | 1.57-1.73 (1.67) | 1.48-1.74 (1.62) |

- **Frons, lateral sides**: Markedly S-shaped (Fig. 3)  
  Slightly arcuate (Fig. 10)

- **Head, sculpture**: Fine, superficial, dense punctures; intervals scarcely as wide as diameter of puncture (Fig. 3)  
  Large, coarse, sparse punctures; intervals at least twice wider than diameter of puncture (Fig. 10)

- **Pronotal sides**: Irregularly rounded (Fig. 5)  
  Regularly rounded (Fig. 11)

- **Pronotal disc, sculpture**: With fine sparse punctures, intervals 3-4 times as wide as diameter of puncture (Fig. 5)  
  With coarse dense punctures, intervals 1/5-2 times as wide as diameter of puncture (Fig. 11)

- **Prosternal sides, sculpture**: With ca. 9 distinct concentric striae across entire base (Fig. 6)  
  With ca. 6 poorly marked concentric striae across lateral part of base (Fig. 12)

- **Hypomeron, shape**: Rather sharply expanded basad from anterior corners, distinctly expanded in basal portion (Fig. 6)  
  Weakly expanded basad from anterior corners, slightly expanded in basal portion (Fig. 12)

- **Setal patch on abdominal sternite 2**: Formed by very dense setae, situated closer to anterior margin (Figs. 13-14)  
  Formed by sparse setae, situated nearly at the mid-length (Figs. 19-20)

- **Stereite 5, apical margin**: Angularly projecting, with indistinct tooth (Fig. 15)  
  Acutely projecting or truncate (Fig. 21)

- **Aedeagus**: As in Figs. 22-24*)  
  As in Figs. 25-27*)

- **Ovipositor**: As in Figs. 28  
  As in Fig. 30

*) The difference in internal sac structures on Figs. 24 and 27 can be resulted from artifact; it is quite possible that in the single studied male of \textit{G. felix} the portion of internal sac bearing flagellum is upturned (Fig. 27).

\textit{Galbella} (\textit{Galbella}) felix (Marseul, 1866)

(Figs. 7-12, 19-21, 25-27, 30)

\textit{Janthe felix} Marseul, 1866: 504.


**Distribution.** Cyprus, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey (BílÝ et al. 2006), Greece (Rhodes). New records for Greece and Western Turkey.

**CHECKLIST OF PALAEARCTIC SPECIES OF \textit{GALBELLA}**

(Distribution by BílÝ et al. (2006) and present study.)

\textit{G.} (\textit{G.}) \textit{acaciae} Descarpentries & Mateu, 1965  
Algeria: Afrotropical  
Host plant: \textit{Acacia raddiana} (Savi) Brenan (Fabales: Fabaceae) (Mateu 1972; Volkovitsh & BílÝ 2001)  
G. (G.) atricolor Abeille de Perrin, 1907  
Yemen; Afrotropical

G. (G.) ennediana Descarpentries & Mateu, 1965  
Oman, Yemen; Afrotropical

G. (G.) felix (Marseul, 1866) (Janthe)  
Cyprus, Greece (Rhodes), Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey

=G. (G.) felicissima Abeille de Perrin, 1897

Host plant: Phillyrea latifolia L. (Oleales: Oleaceae) (VOLKOVITSH & BíLY 2001)

Larval description: VOLKOVITSH & BíLY (2001)

G. (G.) hartii Janson, 1891  
Israel, Saudi Arabia

G. (G.) holzschuhi sp. nov.  
Iran

Host plant: Pistacia sp. (Rutales: Anacardiaceae) (D. Baiocchi, pers. com.)

G. (G.) villiersi (Obenberger, 1950) (Janthe)  
Algeria; Afrotropical

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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WESTWOOD J. O. 1848: *The Cabinet of Oriental Entomology*, being a selection of some of the rarer and more beautiful species of insects, natives of India and the adjacent islands, the greater portion of which are now for the first time described and figured. W. Smith, London, 88 pp., 42 col. pls.