

Platycleis (Parnassiana) nigromarginata sp. nov. from Greece (Orthoptera: Decticinae)

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Abstract: A bush-cricket species belonging to *Platycleis (Parnassiana)*, collected on Mt. Akarnanika in the southwestern part of the Greek mainland, is described and illustrated.

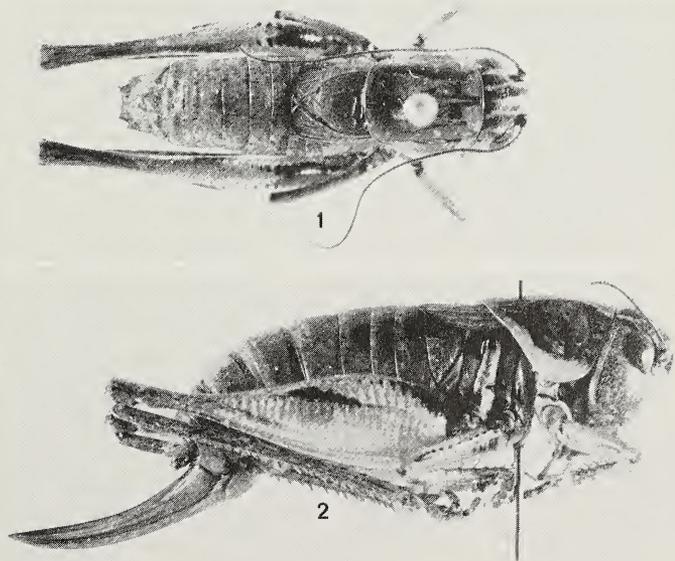
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Introduction

In his revision of *Parnassiana* Zeuner, one of the subgenera of *Platycleis* Fieber, Harz (1969) recognized seven species, six from Greece and one from France. One of the Greek species, *P. sporadarum* (Werner, 1933), has recently (Ingrisch & Pavičević, 1985) been placed in *Tessellana* Zeuner, another subgenus of *Platycleis*. Since 1969 six new species and two new subspecies from various mountainous areas in the Greek mainland and Euboea have been recognized within *Parnassiana* (La Greca & Messina, 1976; Willemse, 1973, 1975, 1980). A key

to the Greek species of *Parnassiana* is given by Willemse (1980, 1985); bibliographies and information on distribution are presented by the same author (Willemse, 1980, 1984).

In 1986, in order to investigate the little known Orthoptera fauna of Akarnanika, the senior author visited Mt. Akarnanika, an isolated mountainous area in the southwestern part of the Greek mainland opposite the Ionian island of Levkas. Among other species a series of *Parnassiana* specimens was collected which proved to be different from any of the known species.



Figs. 1-2. *Platycleis (Parnassiana) nigromarginata* sp. nov.
1, ♂ holotype; 2, ♀ allotype.

***Platycleis (Parnassiana) nigromarginata* sp. nov.**

(figs. 1-7)

Types. ♂ Holotype, ♀ allotype, 7♂, 5♀ paratypes: Hellas (Aitolia-Akarnania) Mt. Akarnanika 1000-1450 m. L. Willemse 9-10.VII.1986. The type-material is deposited in the collection Willemse, except 1♂ and 1♀ paratypes in the British Museum of Natural History, London and 1♂ and 1♀ paratypes in the Instituut voor Taxonomische Zoölogie, Amsterdam.

Description

Male (fig. 1). In general appearance slightly more robust than the type-species, *P. parnassica* (Ramme, 1926).

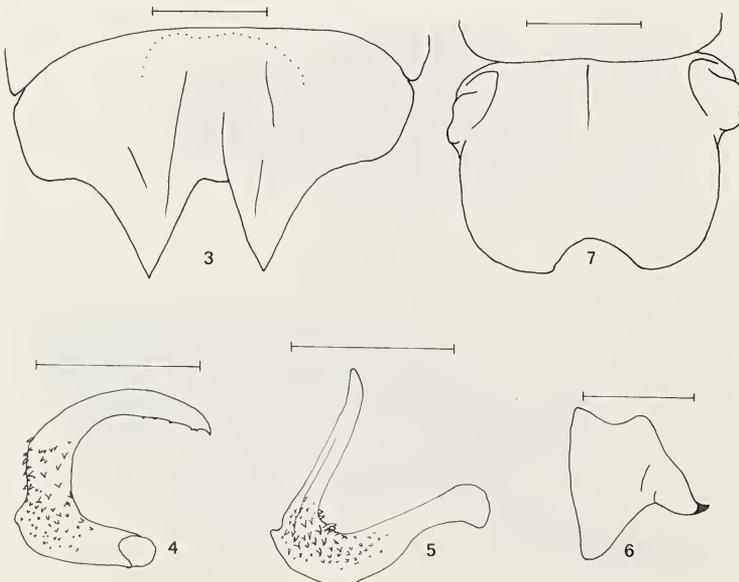
Thorax: Dorsum of the pronotum slightly rounded, shiny. Elytra reaching the hind margin of second to third tergite. Hind femur thick and short as typical for *Parnassiana*, about 2.3 times as long as the pronotum.

Abdomen: Last abdominal tergite (fig. 3) divided apically by a deep median incision into a pair of triangular pointed lobes, in well preserved specimens pointing posteriorly and not overlapping, in other specimens, depending on the degree of shrinkage, pointing medially. Cercus (fig. 6) remarkably robust, scarcely longer than wide, when flexed almost completely covered by the last

tergite; base inflated: apical part compressed dorso-ventrally, broad triangular in dorsal view, tip rounded; inner margin of the cercus in the middle provided with an inflated, robust, hook-shaped tooth, the tip acute and pointing a little medio-ventrally. Subgenital plate with the lateral margin entire, hind margin weakly incised; styli of usual length, about one third of the shortest distance between the two styli. Epiphallus (figs. 4-5) of medium size, anterior surface of the basal plate and the base of the apical part finely spinulose; apical part distinctly curved ventrally, slightly compressed laterally, surface smooth but in some specimens the ventral side bearing a few minute denticles, very tip acute and curved ventrally.

Colouration: As in the type-species but the apical margin of both elytra narrowly bordered black.

Female (fig. 2). As the male. Elytra reaching the hind margin of the first to second tergite. Sternites not modified. Subgenital plate (fig. 7) slightly shorter than wide with a wide concave apical emargination, roundly passing over into the strongly convex hind margin. Ovipositor comparatively short, 1.5 to 1.8 times as long as the pronotum.



Figs. 3-7. *Platycleis (Parnassiana) nigromarginata* sp. nov. 3, dorsal view of the male last abdominal tergite; 4-5, lateral (4) and anterior (5) view of the left epiphallus; 6, dorsal view of the left male cercus; 7, ventral view of the female subgenital plate. (All paratypes; bar: 1 mm.)

Colouration. As in the male, apical margin of the elytra narrowly black.

Measurements. Length in mm: body ♂ 18-21, ♀ 19-23; pronotum ♂ 5.6-5.8, ♀ 5.9-6.2; elytron ♂ 4.1-4.9, ♀ 2.9-3.8; hind femur ♂ 13.1-13.5, ♀ 14.2-14.9; ovipositor 9.6-10.3.

Distribution. Known only from the type locality, Mt. Akarnanika, in the southwestern part of the Greek mainland. The locality was reached via the village of Thirion. The habitat, at 1200-1300 m altitude, consists of rocky slopes above the timberline covered with tussocks of grass and low perennial shrubs.

Differential diagnosis

The species is well defined and agrees perfectly with other members of *Parnassiana*. The black apical margin of the elytra in both sexes is unique among the subgenus. The male cercus is also highly characteristic though the general shape resembles that of *P. menalon* Willemse, 1975 and *P. parnassica* (Ramme, 1926). Size, shape and armature of the epiphallus are also characteristic though not as apparently distinct from other species of the subgenus than the features mentioned above. The triangular pointed

lobes of the last abdominal tergite of the male are shared with *P. gionica* La Greca & Messina, 1976, *P. chelmos* Zeuner, 1941, and *P. fusca* Brunner von Wattenwyl, 1882.

Further studies of the stridulatory file of the male have not been made. The song, however, has been recorded.

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