3083 munis Entomology & Zoology

Munis Entomology & Zoology
https://www.munisentzool.org/
ISSN 1306-3022

Mun. Ent. Zool.
21 (supplement)
(September, 2026)
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THE PRESENCE OF *PHYTOECIA* (*NEOMUSARIA*) *ALEPENSIS* PIC IN TURKEY (CERAMBYCIDAE: LAMIINAE) WITH OVERLOOKED AND PRESENT DATA

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[Özdikmen, H. 2026. The presence of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic in Turkey (Cerambycidae: Lamiinae) with overlooked and present data. Munis Entomology & Zoology, 21 (suppl.): 3083-3089**]**

ABSTRACT: *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 has been known only from Syria, not Turkey. However, it is also distributed in Turkey. Accordingly, the precence of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 in Turkey is proved with overlooked data of Demelt and the present materials from South Anatolia in the present work.

KEY WORDS: Cerambycidae, *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis*, presence, Turkey

The species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* was described by Pic (1931: 2) from Aleppo (NW Syria) near the Turkish border. It has been known an endemic species for Syria up to now (Tavakilian, 2026; Danilevsky, 2026). For this reason, it has not been recorded also by Özdikmen (2021, 2024, 2025a,b) from Turkey. However, Demelt (1967) reported this species also from South Anatolian part of Turkey. Unfortunately, this data of Demelt (1967) has been overlooked so far.

Therefore, it has been proved that *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 is distributed also in Turkey, not only Syria. Thus, adding *P.* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, the subgenus *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) Plavilstshikov, 1928 includes 12 species-group taxa (11 species and one non-nominal subspecies) in Turkey now.

Accordingly, known records for the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 in Turkey can be presented as follows:

Subfamily **Lamiinae** Latreille, 1825
Tribe **Phytoeciini** Mulsant, 1839

Genus ***Phytoecia*** Dejean, 1835: 351
[Type species *Cerambyx cylindricus* Linnaeus, 1758]

Subgenus ***Neomusaria*** Plavilstshikov, 1928: 123
[Type species. *Saperda balcanica* Frivaldszky von Frivald, 1835]

Phytoecia alepensis Pic, 1931: 2 (Fig. 1)

Type information. *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931. Lectotype male. Ex collection M. Pic, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France [type locality. "Aleppo" (Syria)]

Overlooked records from Turkey.

Turkey: Asian Turkey (Anatolia): Mersin (İçel) province: Namrun (=Çamlıyayla) district as *Phytoecia merkli* Ggb. m. *alepensis* Pic, and Turkey: Asian Turkey (Anatolia): Niğde province: Ulukışla district, Çiftehan village as *Phytoecia merkli* Ggb. m. *alepensis* Pic [the overlooked data in the work of Demelt (1967)] (Fig. 2).

Materials examined.

Turkey: Niğde province, Ulukışla district, Alihoca village, 20.VI.2007, 24.VI.2008, 06.VI.2010, 13.VI.2010, on *Salvia aucheri* var. *aucheri*, 8 specimens (Fig. 2).

Range.

A: SY (Syria) TR (Turkey)



Figure 1. *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 from Niğde province (Ulukışla district, Alihoca village).

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Figure 2. Kown records of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931, **1**. The type locality (Aleppo, Syria), **2**. The Turkish records of Demelt (1967) (Niğde prov.: Ulukışla, Çiftehan and Mersin prov.: Çamlıdere) and present materials (Niğde prov.: Ulukışla, Alihoca).

So far host plant of the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 is unknown. According to present specimens given in this study, host plant of the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 is determined as *Salvia aucheri* Bentham var. *aucheri* Bentham (Lamiaceae). Therefore, host plant of this species is determined for the first time with the present study.

Note.

The species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 is closely related to *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884. According to Breuning (1951), it was a morpha of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884.

In this respect, I think that according to overlooked Turkish records of Demelt (197), the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 may be represented also at least in some provinces of Southern Anatolia of Turkey as Adana, Osmaniye, Hatay, Kahramanmaraş, Gaziantep and Kilis provinces, and even Adıyaman, Şanlıurfa and Mardin provinces. Therefore, some old Turkish records of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 in Eastern Mediterranean region and South-Eastern Anatolian region of Turkey may be belong to *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931. In this new situation, at least the old records of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* in these provinces need to be confirmed.

For this purpose, some diagnostic characters between the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 and *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 can be presented as below.

- Pronotum with a broad longitudinal median band of rusty-yellow pubescence and the sides of the pronotum with longitudinal bands of densely rusty-yellow pubescence (lateral bands always present); pronotum often longer than its wide or at least as long as its wide; middle and hind femora relatively widely ringed with red coloration; abdomen black, with a triangular spot on each side of the segments and the posterior margin of the latter of densely rusty-yellow pubescence..... ***Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884**

- Pronotum with a broad longitudinal median band covered with ochre pubescence and at most the lower regions of the lateral parts covered with ochre pubescence or not (lateral bands absent completely in general); pronotum as long as its wide or a little shorter than its wide; middle and hind femora relatively narrowly ringed with red coloration; the last abdominal segment entirely red..... ***Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931**

Moreover, I see that there is a photograph of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 presented by Kasatkin (2026) with the label given below.

> *"Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884
> Mersin prov., Çamlıdere distr., near Sebil vill., Cehennem Dere gorge, 30-31.05.2010, leg. D. Kasatkin"

However, species of this taxon although given as *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 in the photo by Kasatkin (2026) should be *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 on the base of pronotal characteristics chiefly (see Fig. 3).



Figure 3. *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931, not *P.* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 (taken from D. Kasatkin, 2026).

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In addition, I see that there are two photographs of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 presented by Bezark (2026) with the label "Çiftehan, Niğde province, Turkey.

Also, species of this taxon although given as *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 in the photos by Bezark (2026) should be *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 on the base of abdominal and pronotal characteristics chiefly (see Figs. 4a,b).



(a) **(b)**

Figure 4. *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931, (a) Dorsal view, (b) Lateral view, not *P.* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 (taken from L. G. Bezark, 2026).

Hence, interestingly the Turkish records in Demelt (1967) of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 are confirmed with the photographed specimens given above in figures 3 and 4, which are collected the same localities with the Turkish records in Demelt (1967).

A photo of the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 can be presented as below (Fig. 5).



Figure 5. *P.* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 from Adıyaman province (summit of Nemrut Mountain) (taken from Hoskovec et al., 2026).

So far the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 has been reported from Adana, Adıyaman, Amasya, Ankara, Antalya, Artvin, Bitlis, Çankırı, Çorum, Erzurum, Eskişehir, Hatay, Kars, Kayseri, Konya, Mardin, Mersin, Niğde, Osmaniye, Sivas, Şanlıurfa, and Tunceli provinces in Turkey.

Also, *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 is reported from Mersin and Niğde provinces in Turkey with the present study.

Consequently, known provincial distributions of the species *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 and *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 in Turkey can be presented as below (Figs. 6 and 7).



Figure 6. Known provincial distribution of *P.* (*Neomusaria*) *merkli* Ganglbauer, 1884 in Turkey.

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Figure 7. Known provincial distribution of *Phytoecia* (*Neomusaria*) *alepensis* Pic, 1931 in Turkey.

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