



On the occurrence of *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *nobile* Holdhaus, 1905 in mainland Tuscany (Italy) (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Scydmaeninae)

MARCO VILLANI

Via Nagykata 7/a, 48011 Alfonsine (RA), Italy.
E-mail: marcovillani.mail@gmail.com

Abstract. *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *nobile* Holdhaus, 1905, which was previously thought to be endemic to Elba Island, is recorded for the first time in mainland Tuscany based on some findings from Metallifere Hills (Grosseto Province).

Riassunto. *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *nobile* Holdhaus, 1905, ritenuto in precedenza endemico dell'Isola d'Elba, viene segnalato per la prima volta per la Toscana continentale sulla base di alcuni reperti provenienti dalle Colline Metallifere (Provincia di Grosseto).

Key words. Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Scydmaeninae, *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *nobile*, Tuscany, Elba, endemic, endogean, leaf litter.

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Introduction

The genus *Cephennium* P.W.J. Müller & Kunze, 1822 includes endogean and leaf litter species, most of which are endemic to relatively restricted areas. Of the five subgenera of *Cephennium*, *Cephennarium* Reitter, 1882 is the least diverse, including seven species occurring in the circum-Tyrrhenian area: the Apennine Peninsula, the Tuscan Archipelago, Corse and Sardinia. All *Cephennarium* species live in the leaf litter and the upper layers of the endogean habitat, showing some adaptations to this lifestyle such as a partially reduced pigmentation and small eyes.

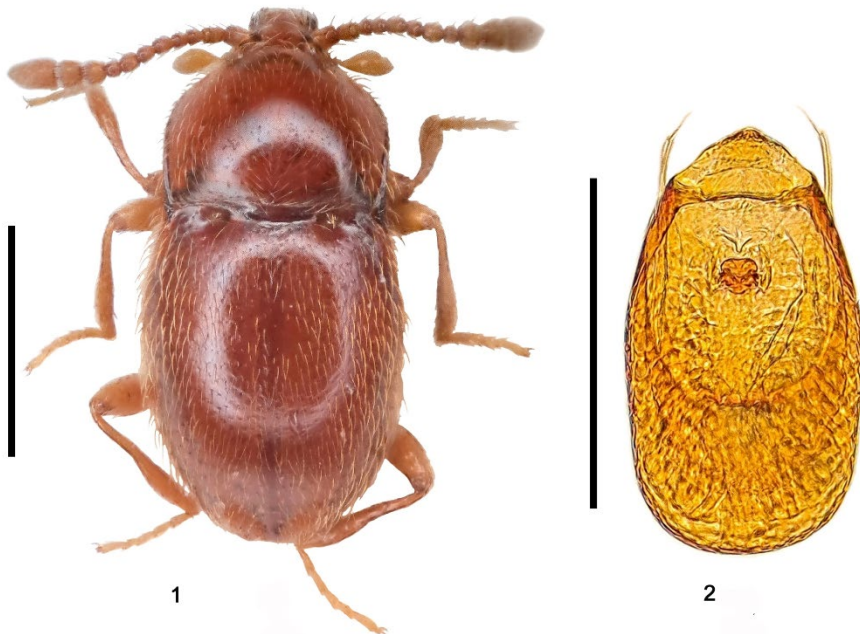
During the study of unidentified material from Giorgio Castellini's collection, preserved in the Museum of Natural History "La Specola", University of Florence (MZUF), and material from the private collection of the author (MVCR), some specimens of *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *nobile* Holdhaus, 1905 from mainland Tuscany were discovered. These findings represent the first records of this species outside Elba Island, where it was previously thought to be endemic (VIT & BESUCHET, 2015).

Cephennium (*Cephennarium*) *nobile* Holdhaus, 1905 (Figs. 1-2)

Material examined. 1 ♂: Tuscany, Castiglione della Pescaia (GR), Poggio Ballone, s.d., leg. G. Castellini (MZUF). 1 ♂, 1 ♀: Tuscany, Scarlino (GR), Piandalma, 17.05.1992, leg. M. Bastianini (MZUF). 2 ♂: Tuscany, Gavorrano (GR), Giuncarico, 06.09.1992, leg. M. Bastianini (MZUF). 1 ♂: Tuscany, Castiglione della Pescaia (GR), Vetulonia, 06.1998, leg. G. Castellini (MZUF). 4 ♂:

Tuscany, Gavorrano (GR), Caldana, 29.07.1999, leg. G. Castellini (MZUF). 1 ♂, 2 ♀: Gavorrano (GR), Caldana, 280 m, 27.04.2025, leg. M. Villani (MVCR).

Remarks. *Cephennium nobile* is one of the most easily recognizable species within *Cephennarium*, being characterized by apically impressed elytra, sinuous, flattened and apically broadened male metatibiae and shape of the aedeagus that is dorsally flattened and membranous instead of cylindrical and well sclerotized (Figs 1-2). Females of *C. nobile* can be recognized by the lack of long bristles on metatarsomere 1 and by the long, pointed teeth of the metaventral process.



Figs. 1-2. *Cephennium (Cephennarium) nobile* ♂ from Vetulonia (GR). 1, habitus (scale bar: 0,5 mm). 2, aedeagus in dorsal view (scale bar: 0,25 mm).

This species was originally reported from Elba Island by HOLDHAUS (1905; 1924) without detailed locality data. In the latest Catalogue of Palearctic Coleoptera the species is mentioned for Elba Island only (Vít & BESUCHET, 2015). During my fieldwork on Elba Island, this species was collected in several localities, appearing to be widespread throughout the island: Marciana (LI), Poggio, Fonte di Zeno, 260 m; Marciana (LI), Casevecchie, 150 m; Campo nell'Elba (LI), Colle di Palombaia, 100 m; Portoferraio (LI), Villa San Martino, 100 m; Capoliveri (LI), Lacona, 160 m; Capoliveri (LI), Monte Calamita, N slope, surroundings of Calanova, 80 m; Rio (LI), surroundings of Ripa Bianca, 100 m.

To these localities I can add additional ones communicated to me *in litteris* by Roberto Poggi, based on specimens preserved in the Museum of Natural History "G. Doria", Genoa (MSNG): Marciana (LI), Poggio, 300 m; Marciana (LI), W surroundings of Poggio, 330 m; Marciana (LI), road between Poggio and Monte Perone, 400 m; Marciana (LI), Pomonte, SW slopes of Monte Capanne, 100 m; Marciana (LI), surroundings, 350 m; Portoferraio (LI), Acquaviva, bivio per Fonteviva, 20 m; Portoferraio (LI), Capo d'Enfola, 100 m.

In mainland Tuscany, *C. nobile* seems to be restricted to the area of Metallifere Hills, where it is quite widespread (five localities; Fig. 3). In this area, the species is sympatric and syntopic with *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *carrarae* Reitter, 1885, a species with a wider range extending from the Ligurian Apennines to southern Tuscany. On Elba Island, *C. nobile* is also sympatric and syntopic with *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *insulare* Holdhaus, 1905. The range of the latter species is similar to that of *C. nobile*, being recorded from Elba Island and two localities in mainland Tuscany: Piombino promontory and Montagnola Senese (Holdhaus, 1905; 1924). The occurrence of the same endogean species on both Elba Island and the neighboring Tuscan coast is already documented for *Pselaphogenius conosternum* (Holdhaus, 1905) (Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae: Pselaphini), *Tychobythinus majori* (Holdhaus, 1905) (Staphylinidae: Pselaphinae: Bythinini) and *Vulda* (*Typhlodes*) *holdhausi* Bernhauer, 1908 (Staphylinidae: Staphylininae: Xantholinini) and can be explained by paleogeographic factors (Poggi, 1975; BORDONI, 2004). During the field trip in Caldana, *C. nobile* was found using the sifting technique in a mixed forest dominated by *Castanea sativa* Mill. and *Quercus ilex* L., by sampling leaf litter and soil at the base of trees. The following species were found together with *C. nobile*: *Trimium zoufali* Krauss, 1900, *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *carrarae* Reitter, 1885, *Cephennium* (*Geodytes*) *andreinii* Castellini, 2011, *Leptomastax hypogaea* Pirazzoli, 1855, *Leptotyphlus* (*Leptotyphlus*) *uccellinensis* Pace, 1978 (Staphylinidae) and *Ferreria marqueti apennina* (Dieck, 1869) (Curculionidae).

The discovery of *C. nobile* in mainland Tuscany brings the number of *Cephennarium* species present in this area to five. The distribution ranges and diagnostic characters of these taxa will be discussed in a future revision of the subgenus (Villani, in preparation).

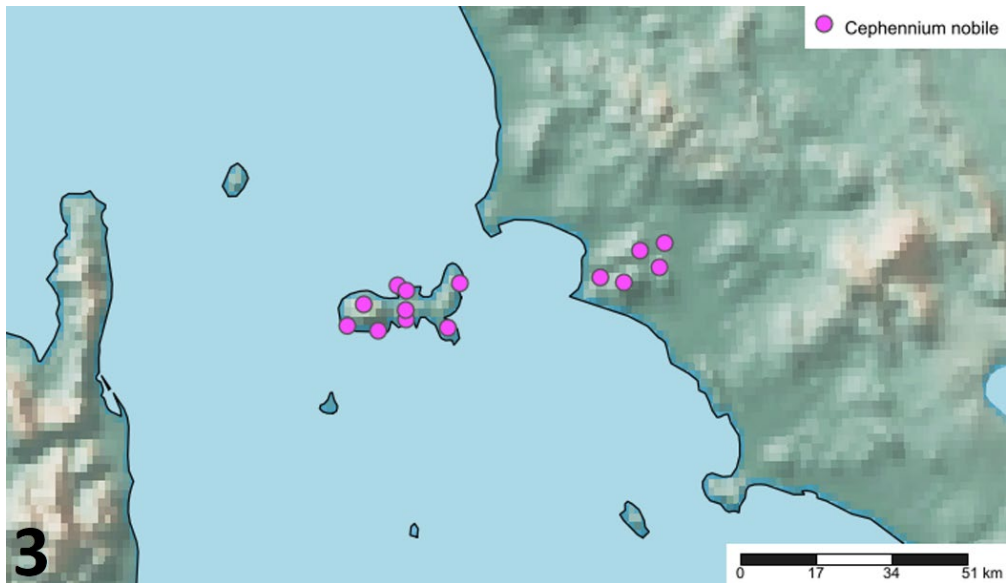


Fig. 3. Distribution map of *Cephennium* (*Cephennarium*) *nobile*.

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