



Two antlions genera new for Vietnam (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae)

Agostino LETARDI

ENEA, Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development,
Roma, Italy, agostino.letardi@enea.it

Abstract. A small batch of material from research conducted in northern Vietnam in 2023 and 2024 has allowed us to add two new genera of Myrmeleontidae in Vietnam: *Bankisus* Navás, 1912 and *Baliga* Navás, 1912.

Riassunto. Due generi di formicaleoni nuovi per il Vietnam (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae). Un piccolo lotto di materiale derivante da ricerche condotte in Vietnam settentrionale nel 2023 e nel 2024 ha permesso di aggiungere due nuovi generi di Myrmeleontidae in Vietnam: *Bankisus* Navás, 1912 e *Baliga* Navás, 1912.

Tóm tắt. Hai giống Kiến sư tử mới ghi nhận tại Việt Nam (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae). Dựa trên một số mẫu vật thu thập được từ các chuyến nghiên cứu thực hiện ở miền Bắc Việt Nam trong năm 2023 và 2024, chúng tôi bổ sung hai giống mới thuộc họ Myrmeleontidae cho Khu hệ côn trùng Việt Nam, đó là *Bankisus* Navás, 1912 và *Baliga* Navás, 1912.

Keywords. Dendroleontini, Myrmeleontini, Oriental Region.

Citation: LETARDI A., 2026. Two antlions genera new for Vietnam (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae). *Onychium*, 19(3): 169-171.

Introduction

The ongoing research in Vietnam in the frame of a “Memorandum of Understanding” between the Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Hanoi and the Museum of Natural History, University of Florence conducted by Dr. Luca Bartolozzi and collaborators (LETARDI *et al.*, 2012) provided numerous data relating to the distribution of Megaloptera; during these researches, small numbers of specimens from different families of Neuroptera (Chrysopidae, Hemerobiidae, Mantispidae, Osmylidae, and Myrmeleontidae) were also collected, partly identified, and preserved at the Museum of Zoology of the University of Florence (MZUF). Field research conducted in 2023 and 2024 also gained about twenty specimens of the family Myrmeleontidae, almost all belonging to the genus *Layahima* Navás, 1912, subject of a recent taxonomic review (ZHENG *et al.*, 2025); in the same small batch I have found material belonging to two genera previously not reported in Vietnam.

Material and methods

The two specimens listed in the present work came from two localities of North Vietnam so labelled:

N-Vietnam: Hoa Binh Prov., Lac Son district, c/o Ngoc Son Ngo Luong Nature reserve, 200 m, at light, 20°23'55" N; 105°22'15" E, 12.VI.2024 / L. Bartolozzi, I. Pukhkalov, E. Orbach, leg. (n° Mag. 3147), synthesized as HBP.

N-Vietnam: Vinh Phuc Prov., Tam Dao National Park, 21°27'54" N; 105°38'28" E, 991 m, at light, 20-22.VI.2023 / L. Bartolozzi, I. Pukhkalo, E. Orbach, A. Bandinelli, S. Bambi, V. Sbordonì leg. (n° Mag. 3136), synthesized as VPP

Species are identified according to the world catalogue of OSWALD, 2026 with the integration of the recent references LIN *et al.*, 2024. The taxonomic arrangement follows the recent comprehensive review of Dendroleontini (ZHAN & WANG, 2012) and Myrmeleontini (ZHENG *et al.*, 2026).

Results

MYRMELEONTIDAE Latreille, 1802

DENDROLEONTINAE Banks, 1899

DENDROLEONTINI Banks, 1899

Bankisus Navás, 1912

Bankisus sparsus Zhan & Wang, 2012

Bankisus sparsus Zhan & Wang, 2012: 43

Material examined. N-VIETNAM: 1 ♂, HBP (MZUF).

Remarks. This species is also recorded from China (OSWALD, 2026).

MYRMELEONTINAE Latreille, 1802

MYRMELEONTINI Latreille, 1802

Baliga Navás, 1912

Baliga asakurae (Okamoto, 1910)

Myrmeleon asakurae Okamoto, 1910: 297

Myrmeleon ochraceopennis Nakahara, 1913: 96

Material examined. N-VIETNAM: 1 ♂, VPP (MZUF) (Fig. 1).

Remarks. This species is also recorded in eastern China (OSWALD, 2026).



Fig. 1. *Baliga asakurae* (Okamoto, 1910), male, from Vietnam (Photo F. Turrisi).

Discussion

The publication of the results of research conducted in Vietnam by the research group coordinated by Dr. Luca Bartolozzi over the past decade continues to provide interesting new data on the diversity of Neuropterida in that country. The genus *Baliga* has a distribution in the Oriental and Eastern Palaearctic regions. NAVÁS (1937) described *Baliga fallax* for the generic area of Indochina, and this taxon is reported for China and Vietnam in ZHENG *et al.*, 2026; nevertheless, the specimen of *Baliga asakurae*, previously reported only for eastern China and Japan, is the first specimen of this genus reported for a specific Vietnamese locality. As reported in the original description by ZHAN & WANG (2012), *Bankisus sparsus* is highly disjunct from other *Bankisus* species (mostly from sub-Saharan Africa) and is likely not congeneric with them (ÁBRAHÁM, 2017; PROST & POPOV, 2021). Considering these results, it is hoped that such research will continue in the near future in order to contribute to a more detailed knowledge of the diversity of Neuropterida of Vietnam.

Acknowledgements

I am grateful to Dr. Luca Bartolozzi (Museum of Natural History, University of Florence) for allowing the study the specimens collected in Vietnam in the last years. Many thanks to Dr. Yu Chen Zheng for suggestions and checking some specific attributions. I also thank Prof. Vu Van Lien (The Vietnam National Museum of Nature) for the Vietnamese translation of the Summary.

References

- ÁBRAHÁM L., 2017. New data to the Moroccan Myrmeleontiformia (Nemopteridae, Myrmeleontidae, Ascalaphidae) fauna. *Natura Somogyiensis*, 30: 75-138.
- LETARDI A., HAYASHI F. & LIU X.-Y., 2012. Notes on some dobsonflies and fishflies (Megaloptera: Corydalidae) from northern Vietnam. *Entomotaxonomia*, 34(4): 641-650.
- LIN Y.-H., KO C.-C. & TSENG H.-Y., 2024. Taxonomic revision of the antlion tribe Myrmeleontini (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae) of Taiwan. *European Journal of Taxonomy*, 969: 1-61.
- NAVÁS L., 1937. Myrméléonidés nouveaux (pp. 1472–1479). In: Comptes Rendus Xlle Congres International de Zoologie. Meeting: 1935, Lisbon, Portugal. Vol. 2.
- OSWALD J.D., 2026. Neuropterida Species of the World. Lacewing Digital Library, Research Publication (1). Available from <http://lacewing.tamu.edu/SpeciesCatalog/Main> (accessed 05 May 2026)
- PROST A. & POPOV A., 2021. A first comprehensive inventory of Ascalaphidae, Palparidae, and Myrmeleontidae (Insecta: Neuroptera) of Northeastern Nigeria with description of two new species and an overview of genus *Bankisus* Navás. *Historia Naturalis Bulgarica*, 43(5): 51-77.
- ZHAN Q.-B. & WANG X.-L., 2012. First record of the genus *Bankisus* Navás, 1912 in China, with the description of a new species (Neuroptera, Myrmeleontidae). *ZooKeys*, 204: 41-46.
- ZHENG Y.-C., BADANO D., MACHADO R.J.P., TU Y.-Z., ASPÖCK U., ASPÖCK H., NEL A., WINTERTON S.W. & LIU X.-Y., 2026. UCE phylogenomics improves the classification of the cosmopolitan pit-building antlion tribe Myrmeleontini (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae: Myrmeleontinae). *Systematic Entomology*, 51(2): e70040.
- ZHENG Y.-C., TU Y.-Z., BADANO D. & LIU X.-Y., 2025. New insights into diversity and evolution of the Oriental antlion genus *Layahima* Navás, 1912 (Neuroptera: Myrmeleontidae), with description of new species and new larvae from China. *Arthropod Systematics & Phylogeny*, 83: 543-571.

Received: 12 June 2026

Accepted: 30 June 2026