

Micropontica annae sp. nov., a new species of Clausiliidae (Gastropoda, Pulmonata) from Northwest Caucasus

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ABSTRACT. A new species *Micropontica annae* Kijashko sp. nov. (subgenus *Micropontica* s. str.) from the high-mountainous part of Northwest Caucasus is described.

Subgenus *Micropontica* (*Micropontica*) s. str.

Micropontica (*Micropontica*) *annae*
Kijashko sp. nov.

(Figs. 1 A-E, 2 A, B)

The genus *Micropontica* (O. Boettger, 1881) is an endemic West Caucasian clausiliid genus consisting of species dwelling on limerocks. According to the most recent review [Schileyko, 2000], the genus *Micropontica* consists of two subgenera: *Micropontica* s. str. and *Baleopsina* Lindholm, 1924. The first subgenus includes *Micropontica closta* (O. Boettger, 1881) according to Nordsieck [1975], or two species: *M. closta* and *M. circassica* (O. Boettger, 1888), according to Egorov [2002]. The subgenus *Baleopsina* contains two species – *Micropontica retowskii* (O. Boettger, 1888) (= *caucasica* A. Schmidt, 1868) and *M. circassica*, according to Nordsieck [1975], or *M. caucasica* (A. Schmidt, 1868) [= *retowskii* (O. Boettger, 1888)] and *M. interjecta* (Rosen, 1914) according to Egorov [2002]. Currently, of the above-mentioned species the anatomy was studied only for *M. closta*. Probably it causes divergences of views (based on the conchological features) concerning the interspecific relationships of the species of *Micropontica* and the taxonomy of this genus.

In summer 2000, extensive alcohol material on three species of *Micropontica* has been obtained as a result of the expedition to valley of the Belaya River and Lagonaki Mountains (Adygeja and Krasnodar Territory). Two species were identified as *M. retowskii* and *M. circassica*. The third species is described below.

Family Clausiliidae Mörch, 1864

Subfamily Baleinae A. Wagner, 1913

Genus *Micropontica* O. Boettger, 1881

Type species: *Clausilia* (*Micropontica*) *closta*
O. Boettger, 1881

Material. Northwest Caucasus, Adygeja, Lagonaki Mountains, western part of Lagonaki Ridge, southern slope of Mt. Zhitnaya (~ 1900 m above sea level), lime rocks, August 6, 2000; coll P.V. Kijashko (holotype and paratype). Holotype and 68 paratypes are stored in the Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences (Saint-Petersburg, № 505-2003); five paratypes are in the Zoological Museum of Moscow State University.

Type locality. Northwest Caucasus, Adygeja, Lagonaki Mountains, western part of Lagonaki Ridge, southern slope of Mt. Zhitnaya (~ 1900 m above sea level).

Diagnosis. Shell small, with larger and widely spaced ribs; whorls convex, last whorl weakly narrowed; superior lamella high, continuous with spiral lamella through a light curvature, reaching aperture margin; spiral lamella below superior lamella, starts on right side. There are lunella and principal plica; lunella expanded in lower portion and located right-dorsally; principal plica long (almost 0.75 of last whorl in length), stretches at a small angle upwards and practically reaches margin of aperture. Palatal wall of last whorl with a strong longitudinal palatal crest clearly seen at direct view of aperture. Vas deferens smoothly passing in fusiform penis. Penis internally with longitudinal folds (two strong and a series of smaller, irregular), a circular pilaster and a sphincter on top. Spermathecal reservoir adjoins albuminous gland, diverticle weakly curled and expanded in the final part.

[**Диагноз.** Раковина небольшая, с крупной и редкой ребристостью; обороты выпуклые, последний оборот слабо сужен. Верхняя пластинка высокая, впереди достигает края устья, сзади сливается со спиральной, формируя небольшой изгиб. Спиральная пластинка ниже верхней, начинается на правой стороне. Имеются полулунная и главная складки; полулунная складка в нижней части расширена, располагается на право-спинной стороне; главная складка длинная (почти 0.75 от длины последнего оборота), тянется несколько под