

**New genera of Alleculinae (Coleoptera: Tenebrionidae: Alleculinae:
Alleculini) from the Palaearctic and the Oriental Regions.
XV - *Karamela* gen. nov.**

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Abstract. A new genus *Karamela* gen. nov. of the tribe Alleculini Laporte, 1840 from the Oriental and Palaearctic regions is described. Two new species, *Karamela hongheica* sp. nov. from China (Yunnan) and *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. from Vietnam (Vinh Phuc Province) are described. Two species, *Upinella kokutica* Novák, 2024 and *Upinella lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) are transferred to the presently established genus *Karamela* gen. nov. as *Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov. and *Karamela lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) comb. nov.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Upinella* Mulsant, 1856 was described by Mulsant (1856) with the type species *Allecula aterrima* Rosenhauer, 1847. Later, *Upinella* was classified as a subgenus of *Allecula* Fabricius, 1801 (Seidlitz 1896, Borchmann 1910, Mader 1928, Kaszab 1969 and Novák & Pettersson 2008). The genus *Upinella* Mulsant, 1856 was redescribed and raised from the level of subgenus by Novák (2015). Today, we know 29 species and four subgenera of this genus (Novák 2015, 2019, 2024), 22 of them living in the Palaearctic Region (Novák 2020).

The new genus *Karamela* gen. nov. is described here with type species *Upinella kokutica* Novák, 2024 from Thailand (Trat Province, Ko Kut Island). Two new species are described here as *Karamela hongheica* sp. nov. from China (Yunnan Province) and *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. from Vietnam (Vinh Phuc Province).

Two species: *Upinella lanrenxiensis* Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015 and *Upinella kokutica* Novák, 2024 are transferred to the newly established genus *Karamela* as *Karamela lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) comb. nov. and *Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov. Species of the new genus distinctly differ from the species of the genus *Upinella* Mulsant, 1856 mainly by narrower, elongate body, by shorter antenna (reaching about half body length and by antennomeres 5-8 as long or longer than antennomere 3).

The new genus *Karamela* gen. nov. is compared with the genus *Upinella* Mulsant, 1856. The new species are illustrated (including male genitalia) and compared with other species transferred to this genus. A list of the species and identification key are added.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

Two important morphometric characteristics used for the descriptions of species of the subfamily Alleculinae, the ‘ocular index’ dorsally (Campbell & Marshall 1964) and ‘pronotal index’ (Campbell 1965), are used in this paper as well. The ocular index equals $(100 \times \text{minimum dorsal distance between eyes}) / (\text{maximum width of head across eyes})$. The pronotal index is calculated as $(100 \times \text{length of pronotum along midline}) / (\text{width across basal angles of pronotum})$.

‘Type material’ information is taken from locality labels.

In the list of type material, a slash (/) separates data in separate rows.

The following collection codes are used:

ASGG private collection of André Skale, Gera, Germany;

NMEG collection of Naturkundemuseum, Erfurt, Germany;

VNPC private collection of Vladimír Novák, Praha, Czech Republic.

Measurements of body parts and corresponding abbreviations used in text are as follows: AL - total antennae length, BL - maximum body length, EL - maximum elytral length, EW - maximum elytral width, HL - maximum length of head (visible part), HW - maximum width of head, OI - ocular index dorsally, PI - pronotal index dorsally, PL - maximum pronotal length, PW - pronotal width at base, RLA - ratios of relative lengths of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex ($3=1.00$), RL/WA - ratios of length / maximum width of antennomeres 1-11 from base to apex, RLT - ratios of relative lengths of tarsomeres 1-5 respectively 1-4 from base to apex ($1=1.00$).

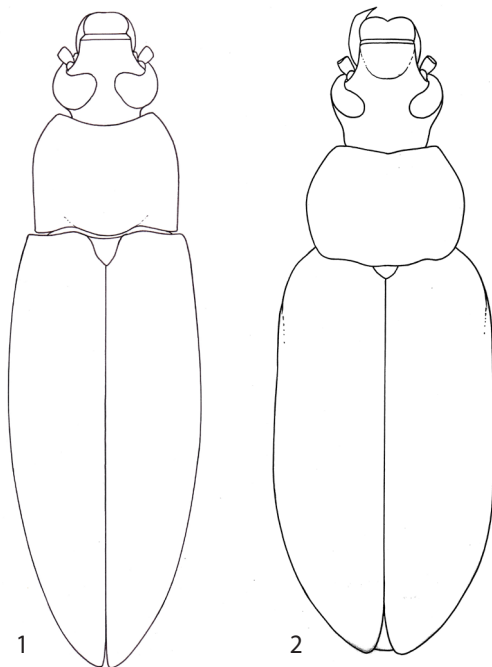
Measurements were made with an Olympus SZ 40 stereoscopic microscope with continuous magnification and with the Soft Imaging System AnalySIS. Snapshots were taken by using camera Canon EOS 550 D and Canon Macro Photo Lens MP-E and software Helicon Focus 7.7.5.

TAXONOMY

Genus *Karamela* gen. nov.

Type species: *Upinella kokutica* Novák, 2024.

Description (male). Body (Figs. 3, 9), body outline (Fig. 1), smaller, narrow, elongate, dorsal surface matte, with microgranulation, setae and punctures. Head (Figs. 4, 10) through the eyes approximately as wide or slightly wider than anterior margin, narrower than base of pronotum. Dorsal surface with punctures, setae and microgranulation. Eyes large, transverse, excised, space between eyes narrow, distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye. Antenna (Figs. 5, 11) relatively short, reaching about half body length. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomeres 5-8 as long or longer than antennomere 3. Ultimate maxillary palpomere (Figs. 6, 12) elongately shoe-shaped. Pronotum matte, approximately as wide as elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with setae, microgranulation and punctures. Border lines narrow, margins conspicuous from dorsal view. Base bisinuate, anterior margin excised. Lateral margins slightly excised in basal half, arcuate in apical part. Posterior and anterior angles



Figs. 1-2. Body outlines: 1- *Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov.; 2- *Upinella aterrima* (Rosenhauer, 1847).

distinct. Elytra narrow, elongate, slightly convex, matte, widest near middle. Dorsal surface with setae. Elytral striae with rows of punctures. Elytral intervals with fine microgranulation. Elytral epipleura well-developed. Legs long and narrow, tibiae with small, sometimes not clearly distinct angle on inner side, pro- and mesotarsomeres 3 and 4 and metatarsomere 3 widened and lobed. Protarsal claws with a few visible teeth.

Female. Without distinct differences.

Differential diagnosis. The most similar genus is *Upinella* Mulsant, 1856.

Species of the new genus *Karamela* gen. nov. clearly differs from the species of the genus *Upinella* mainly by narrower, elongate body (body outline as in Fig. 1), by shorter antenna (reaching about half body length, by antennomeres 5-8 longer than antennomere 3; while *Upinella* species have wider and shorter body (body outline as in Fig. 2), antenna is longer than half body length, antennomeres 5-8 are shorter than length of antennomere 3.

Etymology. Named after the sweet candy of my childhood (from Czech) - *karamela*. Gender: feminine.

Distribution. China (Yunnan Province), Taiwan, Thailand (Trat Province), Vietnam (Vinh Phuc Province).

***Karamela hongheica* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 3-8)

Type locality. China, Yunnan Province, Honghe, 23°1'41.0''N, 103°24'12.8''E, 640 m.

Type material. Holotype (♂): CHINA: Yunnan/Honghe / Lvshuihe, 640m, 23°1'41.0''N, / 103°24'12.8''E, 10.VI.2018 / leg. L. Z. Meng FKL5, (NMEG). The type is provided with a printed red label: 'Karamela / hongheica sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS or PARATYPUS / V. Novák det. 2025'.

Description of holotype. Habitus as in Fig. 3, body medium-sized, elongate, slightly oval, matte, from ochre yellow to black, dorsal surface with pale setae, punctures and fine microgranulation, BL 9.18 mm. Widest near middle of elytral length; BL/EW 3.35.

Head (Fig. 4) as wide as long, through the eyes approximately as wide as anterior margin, slightly narrower than base of pronotum. Dorsal surface black, shiny with coarse punctures and pale setae. Clypeus semi-circular, reddish brown, transverse, surface with long, pale setae, fine microgranulation and very small punctures. Mandibles reddish brown, glabrous, shiny with sides and apex darker and pale setae in sides. HW 1.46 mm; HW/PW 0.69 HL (visible part) 1.46 mm. Eyes large, transverse, excised, space between eyes distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye, approximately as wide as length of antennomere 1; OI equal to 15.86.

Antenna (Fig. 5) pale reddish brown (AL(1-11) 4.66 mm, reaching half body length - AL(1-11)/BL 0.51). Antennomeres 1-6 narrow, antennomeres 7-10 slightly widened apically, ultimate antennomere semi-drop shaped. Dorsal surface with recumbent, pale setae, microgranulation and small punctures. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomeres 4-8 approximately as long or slightly longer than length of antennomere 3.

RLA(1-11): 0.57 : 0.24 : 1.00 : 1.00 : 1.00 : 1.05 : 1.00 : 1.05 : 0.91 : 0.86 : 1.05.

RL/WA(1-11): 1.60 : 1.25 : 3.00 : 3.20 : 3.00 : 3.00 : 2.55 : 2.73 : 2.55 : 2.36 : 2.08.

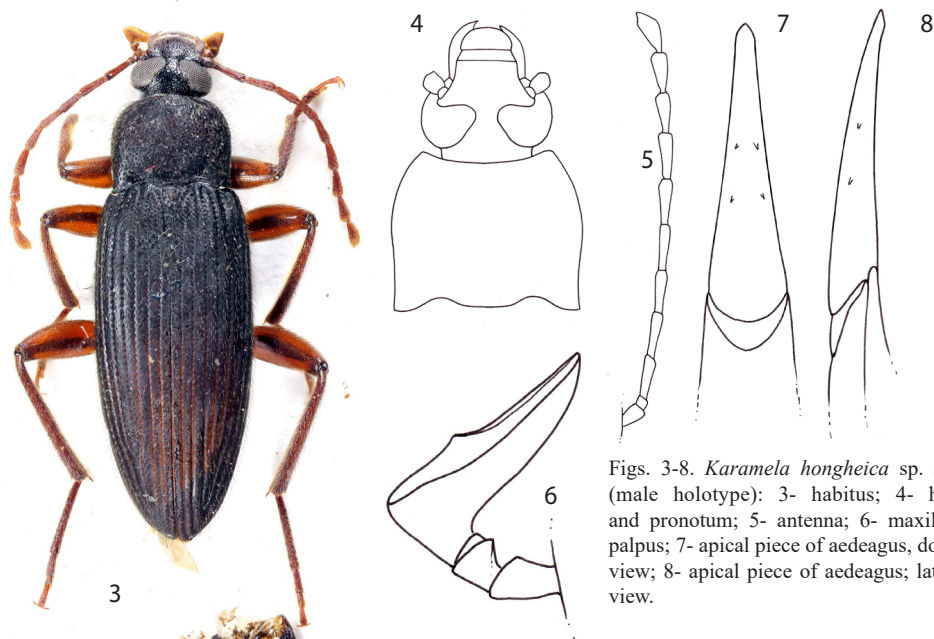
Maxillary palpus (Fig. 6) pale reddish brown, matte, with pale setae and microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere slightly darker, elongately shoe-shaped.

Pronotum (Fig. 4) black, matte, convex, widest near middle, distinctly wider than long, slightly narrower than elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with sparse pale setae, erect and denser near sides, small, relatively sparse, coarse punctures and very fine microgranulation. PL 1.59 mm; PW 2.06 mm; PI equal to 77.19. Border lines very narrow, distinct dorsally, anterior margin not clearly conspicuous in middle. Base bisinuate, anterior margin excised, lateral margins slightly excised before sharp posterior angles. Anterior angles distinct, almost rectangular.

Elytra. Black, elongate, slightly oval, matte, widest near middle. Dorsal surface with pale setae, denser near sides. EL 6.13 mm; EW 2.74 mm; EL/EW 2.24. Elytral striae with rows of coarse punctures, interspaces between punctures distinctly narrower than diameter of punctures. Elytral intervals convex, with fine microgranulation and small punctures.

Scutellum. Blackish brown pentagonal, surface matte with long, pale setae and microgranulation.

Elytral epipleura well-developed, blackish brown, with sparse setae narrowing to ventrite 1, then becoming parallel on apical part.



Figs. 3-8. *Karamela hongheica* sp. nov. (male holotype): 3- habitus; 4- head and pronotum; 5- antenna; 6- maxillary palpus; 7- apical piece of aedeagus, dorsal view; 8- apical piece of aedeagus; lateral view.

Legs. Long, reddish brown, apex of femora narrowly black. Dorsal surface with pale setae, small punctures and fine microgranulation. Protibiae widened before middle of inner side. Penultimate tarsomeres slightly widened and lobed. RLT: 1.00 : 0.40 : 0.40 : 1.00 : 2.00 (protarsus); 1.00 : 0.31 : 0.20 : 0.37 (metatarsus).

Protarsal claws with 3 visible teeth.

Ventral side of body blackish brown with pale setae and punctures. Abdomen dark brown, shiny with long, recumbent, pale setae, dense punctures and fine microgranulation.

Aedeagus (Figs. 7, 8) ochre yellow, shiny. Basal piece rounded laterally and narrowing in dorsal view. Apical piece elongate triangular from dorsal and lateral views. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece in dorsal view 1: 2.98.

Female. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. Similar species are *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. from Vietnam (Vinh Phuc Province), *Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov. from Thailand (Ko Kut Island - Trat Province) and *Karamela lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) comb. nov. from Taiwan.

The new species *Karamela hongheica* sp. nov. clearly differs from the similar species *K. kokutica* mainly by space between eyes distinctly wider than length of antennomere 2 and by shape of aedeagus as in Figs. 7 and 8; while *K. kokutica* has space between eyes approximately as wide as length of antennomere 2, shape of aedeagus is as in Novák (2024: 399: figs. 16 and 17).

The new species *Karamela hongheica* sp. nov. is distinctly different from the similar species *K. lanrenxiensis* and *K. tamdaoica* mainly by antennomere 3 approximately as long as antennomere 4 and by the shape of aedeagus as in Figs. 7 and 8; while *K. lanrenxiensis* and *K. tamdaoica* have antennomere 3 distinctly shorter than antennomere 4 and by shape of aedeagus as in Masumoto et al. (2015: 309: figs. 9 and 10 for *K. lanrenxiensis*) and as in Figs. 13 and 14 (for *K. tamdaoica*).

Etymology. Toponymic, named after the type locality Honghe (Yunnan Province in China).

Distribution. China, Yunnan Province.

***Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 9-14)

Type locality. North Vietnam, Vinh Phuc Province, Tam Dao National Preserve.

Type material. Holotype (♂): VIETNAM N, 15.5-16.6. / 75 KM NW FROM HANOI / TAM DAO 1991 / E.JENDEK LEG., (VNPC). Paratype: (1 ♂): N-VIETNAM Vinh Phuc Prov. / vic. Tam Dao Town, Tam Dao / NP, 02.-05.V.2013, 21°27'N / 105°38'E, 700-1000m, A. Skale, (ASGG). The types are provided with a printed red label: 'Karamela / tamdaoica sp. nov. / HOLOTYPUS or PARATYPUS / V. Novák det. 2025'.

Description of holotype. Habitus as in Fig. 9, body medium-sized, elongate, slightly oval, semi-matte, from ochre yellow to black, dorsal surface with pale setae, punctures and fine microgranulation, BL 10.08 mm. Widest near middle elytra length; BL/EW 3.50.

Head (Fig. 10) slightly longer than wide, through the eyes distinctly wider than anterior margin, narrower than base of pronotum. Dorsal surface shiny with dense, coarse punctures and pale setae. Posterior part black, anterior half slightly paler, rather matte. Clypeus pale reddish brown, transverse, sides rounded, surface with long, pale setae, fine microgranulation and very small punctures. Mandibles reddish brown, glabrous, shiny with sides and apex darker and pale setae in sides. HW 1.58 mm; HW/PW 0.73; HL (visible part) 1.71 mm. Eyes large, transverse, excised, space between eyes distinctly narrower than diameter of one eye, approximately as wide as length of antennomere 1; OI equal to 18.93.

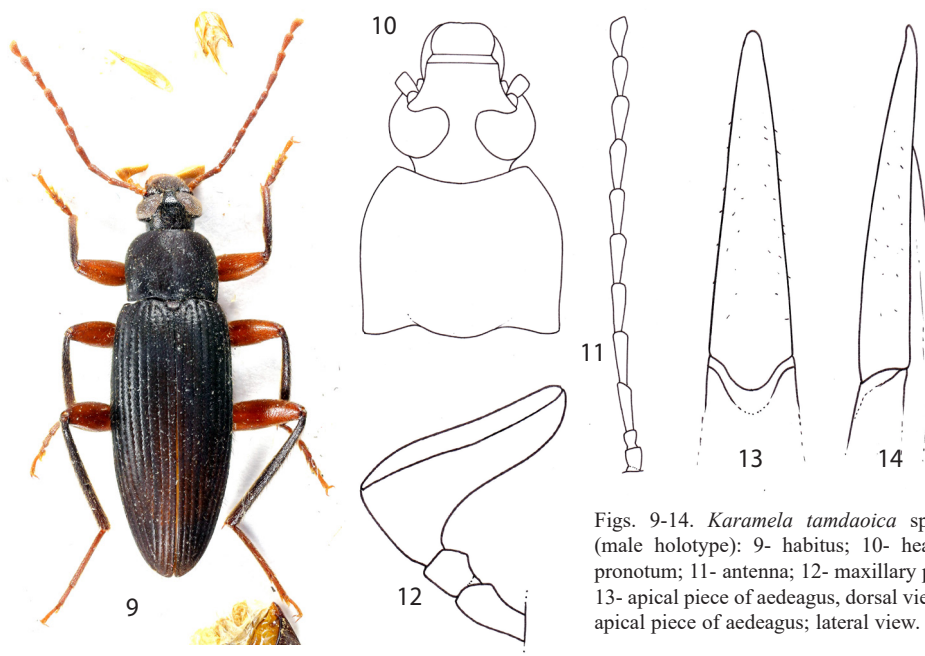
Antenna (Fig. 11) brown (AL(1-11) 5.01 mm, reaching half body length - AL(1-11)/BL 0.50). Antennomeres narrow, dorsal surface matte with recumbent setae, microgranulation and small punctures. Antennomere 2 shortest, antennomeres 4-9 longer than antennomere 3. Ultimate antennomere semi-drop shaped.

RLA(1-11): 0.59 : 0.37 : 1.00 : 1.19 : 1.11 : 1.11 : 1.04 : 1.11 : 1.04 : 0.96 : 0.93.

RL/WA(1-11): 1.60 : 1.25 : 3.00 : 3.20 : 3.00 : 3.00 : 2.55 : 2.73 : 2.55 : 2.36 : 2.08.

Maxillary palpus (Fig. 12) ochre yellow, semi-matte, with pale setae and microgranulation. Palpomeres 2 and 3 distinctly narrowest at base and widest at apex, ultimate palpomere elongately shoe-shaped.

Pronotum (Fig. 9) black, matte, convex, widest near middle, distinctly wider than long, slightly narrower than elytra at humeri. Dorsal surface with sparse pale setae (in sides denser), small punctures and very fine microgranulation. PL 1.59 mm; PW 2.06 mm; PI equal to 77.19. Border lines very narrow, margins conspicuous, not clearly distinct in the



Figs. 9-14. *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. (male holotype): 9- habitus; 10- head and pronotum; 11- antenna; 12- maxillary palpus; 13- apical piece of aedeagus, dorsal view; 14- apical piece of aedeagus; lateral view.

middle of anterior margin dorsally. Base bisinuate, anterior margin excised, anterior and posterior angles distinct, obtuse.

Elytra. Black, elongate, slightly oval, slightly convex, semi-matte, widest near middle. Dorsal surface with very sparse, pale setae in sides slightly denser. EL 6.69 mm; EW 2.88 mm; EL/EW 2.32. Elytral striae with rows of coarse punctures, interspaces between punctures approximately as wide as diameter of punctures. Elytral intervals convex, with fine microgranulation and small, sparse punctures.

Scutellum. Blackish brown pentagonal, slightly elevated up the level of elytra, surface with fine microgranulation.

Elytral epipleura well-developed, blackish brown, with punctures, narrowing to ventrite 1 on basal part, then relatively narrow becoming parallel on apical part.

Legs. Long, pale reddish brown. Dorsal surface with pale setae, small punctures and fine microgranulation. Tibiae blackish brown, protibiae slightly widened before middle of inner side. Penultimate tarsomeres slightly widened and lobed. RLT: 1.00 : 0.67 : 0.83 : 1.00 : 2.08 (protarsus); 1.00 : 0.57 : 0.74 : 0.87 : 1.09 (mesotarsus); 1.00 : 0.36 : 0.18 : 0.36 (metatarsus).

Protarsal claws with 4 visible teeth.

Ventral side of body blackish brown with pale setae and punctures. Abdomen brown, shiny with pale setae, dense punctures and fine microgranulation.

Aedeagus (Figs. 13, 14) ochre yellow, semi-matte. Basal piece rounded laterally and narrowing in dorsal view. Apical piece elongate triangular from dorsal and lateral views. Ratio of length of apical piece to length of basal piece in dorsal view 1: 3.50.

Female. Unknown.

Variability. The type specimens somewhat vary in size; each character is given as its mean value, with full range in parentheses. Males (n=2). BL 10.86 mm (10.08-11.63 mm); HL 1.83 mm (1.71-1.94 mm); HW 1.70 mm (1.58-1.81 mm); OI 20.34 (18.93-21.74); PL 1.78 mm (1.68-1.90 mm); PW 2.37 mm (2.16-2.58 mm); PI 75.42 (73.64-77.19); EL 7.22 mm (6.69-7.74 mm); EW 3.18 mm (2.88-3.46 mm).

Differential diagnosis. Similar species are *Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov. from Thailand (Ko Kut Island - Trat Province), *Karamela lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) comb. nov. from Taiwan and *Karamela hongheica* sp. nov. from China (Yunnan Province).

The new species *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. clearly differs from the similar species *K. hongheica* mainly by antennomere 3 distinctly shorter than antennomere 4 and by the shape of aedeagus as in Figs. 13 and 14; while *K. hongheica* has antennomere 3 approximately as long as length of antennomere 4 and the shape of aedeagus is as in Figs. 7 and 8.

The new species *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. is distinctly different from the similar species *K. lanrenxiensis* mainly by pronotum widest in two thirds from base to apex, with distinct small punctures, by tibiae blackish and by the shape of the aedeagus as in Figs. 13 and 14; while *K. lanrenxiensis* has pronotum widest near middle with indistinct very small and shallow punctures, tibiae are reddish brown or brown and the shape of the aedeagus is as in Masumoto et al. (2015: 309: figs. 9 and 10).

The new species *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov. clearly differs from similar species *K. kokutica* mainly by the space between eyes wider than length of antennomere 2 and by the shape of aedeagus as in Figs. 13 and 14; while *K. kokutica* has the space between eyes approximately as long as length of antennomere 2 and the shape of the aedeagus is as in Novák (2024: 399: figs. 16 and 17).

Etymology. Toponymic, named after the type locality Tam Dao in Vinh Phuc Province (Vietnam).

Distribution. Vietnam (Vinh Phuc Province).

***Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov.**

Type locality. Central Thailand, Trat Province, Ko Kut Island.

Type material. Holotype (♂): C-THAILAND Trat Prov. / Ko Kut Isl., 30.10.-10.11. / 2023, leg. A. Skale, (VNPC).

Remark. This species according to characters given in Novák (2024: 399-401: figs. 13-17) distinctly belongs to the new genus *Karamela* gen. nov.

Distribution. Thailand (Trat Province, Ko Kut Island).

***Karamela lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) comb. nov.**

Allecula lanrenxiensis Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015: 317; figs. 4, 11, 12 in page 309.

Upinella (*Tibinella*) *lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita & Lee, 2015) comb. nov. (Novák 2015: 103; Novák 2019: 91).

Type locality. Taiwan, Pingtung, Kenting National Park, Lanrenxi.

Material examined: Taiwan: Pingtung / Sheting / 20.IV.2015. leg. Y.-T. Chung, 1 ♂, (VNPC).

Remark. Characters of the examined male agree with characters given by Masumoto et al. (2015: 307-309: figs. 4, 11, 12). This species distinctly belongs to the newly established genus *Karamela* gen. nov.

Distribution. Taiwan. Distribution according Novák (2019) should be changed and reduced only to Taiwan. Specimens from Vietnam (Vinh Phuc Province) are presently described as a new species *Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov.

KEY TO THE *KARAMELA* GEN. NOV. SPECIES

- 1(2) Space between eyes approximately as wide as length of antennomere 2. Thailand (Trat Province, Ko Kut Island).....*Karamela kokutica* (Novák, 2024) comb. nov.
- 2(1) Space between eyes wider than length of antennomere 2.
- 3(4) Antennomere 3 approximately as long as antennomere 4. China (Yunnan Province).....*Karamela hongheica* sp. nov.
- 4(3) Antennomere 3 distinctly shorter than antennomere 4.
- 5(6) Pronotum widest near middle with not clearly distinct very small and shallow punctures, tibiae reddish brown or brown. Taiwan.*Karamela lanrenxiensis* (Masumoto, Akita and Lee, 2015) comb. nov.
- 6(5) Pronotum widest in two thirds from base to apex with distinct small punctures, tibiae blackish. Vietnam.*Karamela tamdaoica* sp. nov.

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