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VIETTAGONA VIETNAMENSIS GEN. ET SP. N. FROM VIETNAM (COLEOPTERA, TENEBRIONIDAE: BLAPTINI)

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Viettagona vietnamensis gen. et sp. n. is described from the Lao Cai Province, Vietnam. A key to the subtribes and genera of the tribe Blaptini is given.

Key words: taxonomy, Coleoptera, Tenebrionidae, Blaptini, new species, new genus, Vietnam, identification key

INTRODUCTION

The southern border of the range of tribe Blaptini roughly coincides with the southern limit of the Palaearctic Region. Only a few species of the tribe penetrate into tropical areas of Asia and Africa. L. PEREGOVITS and T. VÁSÁRHELYI (Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest) have discovered a new species of Blaptini in North Vietnam. This species, for which a new genus is erected, inhabits high mountains (2540 m). The beetles were found to be active at night, as in the case of their Palaearctic relatives. The genus *Viettagona* gen. n. is closely related to *Asidoblaps* FAIRMAIRE, 1886 occurring in the mountains of the eastern part of the Tibetan Plateau (Sichuan, Yunnan) and in Taiwan.

The following acronyms are used for indicating depositories of the specimens: HNHM – Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary; ZIN – Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, Russia.

Viettagona gen. n.

Type species – Viettagona vietnamensis sp. n.

Description – Anterior margin of clypeus straight. Antennae (Fig. 1) of male with two terminal segments extending beyond base of pronotum if directed backwards; antennae of female with apices reaching base of pronotum. Prothorax and elytra rather strongly narrowing toward base. Elytra of female swollen. Epipleural carina smooth at base. Epipleura extending to apex of elytra. Dorsal margin of inner surface of profemur with weak rounded process apically (Fig. 3). Inner surface of all tibiae with light hair brush at apex. Apical spurs on protibia small, slightly differing in length, pointed apically. Pro- and mesotibiae thickened in apical half. Hair brushes present on plantar surface of protarsomeres 1 and 2 mesotarsomere 1. Other tarsal segments, except for claw segment, with a bunch or groups of pale hairs. Reservoirs of defensive glands large (Fig. 15). Parameres with rounded apical margin; in lateral view, slightly and evenly curved (Fig. 4). Middle suture on dorsal surface of parameres not pronounced. Opening for penis protraction situated at apex of parameres (Fig. 6). Glands of aedeagal bursa very small (Fig. 8). Common shaft of spiculum ventrale wide (Fig. 9). Male abdominal ventrite 8 with short and wide gland (Fig. 10). Apical margin of lobes of ovipositor widely rounded, covered with long setae (Figs 11, 12). Spermathecal duct long and thin, 1st and 2nd reservoirs of spermatheca with common long base (Fig. 16). Base of spermathecal sphincter long.

Remarks – Viettagona gen. n. belongs to a group of genera including *Tago*noides FAIRMAIRE, 1886, Gnaptorina REITTER, 1887, Montagona G. MEDVEDEV, 1998, Itagonia REITTER, 1887, Sintagona G. MEDVEDEV, 1998, Agnaptoria REIT-TER, 1887, Asidoblaps FAIRMAIRE, 1886, Blaptogonia G. MEDVEDEV, 1998, Nepalindia G. MEDVEDEV, 1998 and Colasia KOCH, 1965 (see MEDVEDEV 1998a, b, 2001a). Based on ovipositor structure, three subgroups are distinguished: 1) Montagona, Tagonoides, Itagonia, Gnaptorina (ovipositorial lobes cuneate, narrowed apically – Fig. 17); 2) Agnaptoria, Asidoblaps, Nepalindia and probably also Sintagona, female of which is not known (apical margin of ovipositorial lobes obliquely truncate – Fig. 18); 3) Colasia (ovipositorial lobes rounded apically – Fig. 19). Viettagona is similar in the structure of the ovipositorial lobes to the genus Colasia, differing from it in the shorter and wider parametes (Fig. 20) and distribution. In addition, Colasia akisoides KOCH, 1965 differs from Viettagona in the absence of pale hair brushes on plantar surface of male pro- and mesotarsomeres, and in the bases of spermathecal reservoirs being separated from each other by rather long duct, bases of reservoirs and spermathecal sphincter approximate. A considerable development of pale hairs on plantar surface of tarsi differentiates Viettagona from the genera Nepalindia and Blaptogonia. In the species of the latter genera, pale hair brush is present only on male protarsomere 1. At the same time, the characters of the tarsal structure unite Viettagona with Asidoblaps and Agnaptoria. Presence of a weak rounded process on dorsal margin of inner surface of profemur and the structure of widened in apical half meso- and metatibiae reveal close affinity of Viettagona to Asidoblaps and Agnaptoria. Another support for this point of view is the structure of legs and female genital tubes in the genera Agnaptoria, Asidoblaps and Viettagona. In particular, meso- and metatibiae in Viettagona are abruptly widened in apical half, like in Agnaptoria; and 1st and 2nd reservoirs of spermatheca in Viettagona and Asidoblaps (for instance, in Asidoblaps smetanai G. MEDVEDEV, 2001 from Taiwan; see Fig. 27 and MEDVEDEV 2001b) form a well-developed common base. Viettagona differs from these genera in the following characters: apical margin of ovipositorial lobes rounded; inner surface of all tibiae covered with pale setae; parameres evenly curved in lateral



Figs 1–10. *Viettagona vietnamensis* gen. et sp. n., male. 1: antenna; 2: pronotum; 3: apex of profemur; 4: aedeagus in lateral view; 5–6: parameres in dorsal and lateral view; 7: base of basal piece of aedeagus in dorsal view; 8: aedeagus in membranous bursa (g – gland); 9: spiculum ventrale; 10: gland of sternite VIII in lateral view. A: scale to Figs 1, 3, 4–7, 9; B, to Fig. 2, C, to Fig. 10



Figs 11–15. *Viettagona vietnamensis* gen. et sp. n., female. 11–13: ovipositor in dorsal, ventral, and lateral view; 14: spiculum ventrale; 15: reservoirs of defensive glands. A: scale to Figs 11–14; B, to Fig. 15

view; common shaft of spiculum ventrale wide. In *Asidoblaps* and *Agnaptoria*, only pro- and mesotibiae are covered with pale setae on inner side; parameres in lateral view S-curved (Fig. 21, 22), common shaft of spiculum ventrale long and thin (Fig. 23).

Viettagona vietnamensis sp. n. (Figs 1–16, 28–31)

Type material – Holotype, male labelled as follows: "Vietnam, Lao Cai Prov., 6 km W of Cat Cat, 2540 m, 22°17.814' N, 103° 48.657' E, singled at night, No. 13, 14.III.1998, leg. L. Peregovits & T. Vásárhelyi" (HNHM). Paratypes: labelled as holotype, 2 males (HNHM); 1 male, 1 female (ZIN).

Description – Body brownish, weakly shining; head, pronotum, underside, antennae and legs darker, nearly black.

Male (Figs 28–29). Outer margin of head with wide obtuse-angled incision above antennal base. Outer margins of genae arcuately converging from anterior margin of eyes to base of clypeus. Outer margin of temples and eyes roundly protruding from cervical constriction to genae. Dorsal sur-



Fig. 16. *Viettagona vietnamensis* gen. et sp. n., female genital tubes. *v*: vagina; *sg*: spermathecal gland; *ss*: spermathecal sphincter; *sd*: spermathecal duct; *r1*: 1st reservoir and *r2*, 2nd reservoirs of spermatheca



Figs 17–24. 17 = *Montagona sculpturata* (Gebien, 1913). 18 = *Nepalindia nepalica* (Kaszab, 1973). 19–20 = *Colasia akisoides* Koch, 1965. 21 = *Asidoblaps potanini* G. Medvedev, 1998. 22 = *A. sinensis* G. Medvedev, 1998. 23–24 = *A. zamotailovi* G. Medvedev, 1998. [17–19 – ovipositor in ventral view; 20 – parameres in dorsal view; 21, 22 – parameres in lateral view; 23 – spiculum ventrale; 24 – basal piece of aedeagus in ventral view (*g* – gland)]. A: scale to Figs 17, 18, 23, 24; B, to Figs 19, 20–22

face of head in anterior half flat, very finely punctate. Basal segments of antennae covered with light setae. Length (width) ratio of antennomeres 2 to 11 is as follows: 11(10) : 46(13) : 20(12) : 22(12) : 22(12) : 22(12) : 20(13) : 20(15) : 25(15) : 27(17). Antennomere 3 4.2 times as long as antennomere 2, and 2.3 times as long as antennomere 4.

Pronotum (Fig. 2) transverse (1.21-1.24 times as wide as long), widest in the middle, 1.69-1.70 times as wide as head. Ratio of pronotal width at anterior margin to its maximum width and width at base (n = 2) 0.53 : 1.00 : 0.79, on the average. Outer margin of pronotum arcuately protruding in ante-



Figs 25–27. 25 = spiculum ventrale of Asidoblaps sinensis G. MEDVEDEV, 1998. 26 = female genital tube (fragment) of Colasia akisoides KOCH, 1965. 27 = female genital tube (fragment) of Asidoblaps smetanai G. MEDVEDEV, 2001. Abbreviations: r1 – 1st reservoir and r2 – 2nd reservoir of spermatheca; bgd – basal gland duct; sd – spermathecal duct; ss – spermathecal sphincter

rior 2/3; in posterior 1/3 tapering to base with almost straight sides; anterior margin rather deeply arcuately emarginate, base straight. Anterior and posterior angles of pronotum obtuse, rounded apically. Pronotal disc evenly convex in anterior 2/3 or slightly flattened along sides, very finely punctate. Prothoracic hypomeron not flattened along outer margin, finely rugose. Intercoxal process of prosternum steeply sloping behind coxae, covered with pale setae.

Elytra elongate (1.59 times as long as wide), as wide as pronotum. Epipleural carina visible in dorsal view at apex only. Apical declivity rather weak. Humeral carina well-pronounced, smooth at base. Elytral surface between humeral carina and sutural margin slightly convex, with one low carina



Figs 28–31. *Viettagona vietnamensis* gen et sp. n.: 28–29 = holotype, male: 28 = dorsal view, 29 = lateral view, 30–31 = paratype, female: 30 = dorsal view, 31 = lateral view. (Photo: I. RETEZÁR)

vanishing on apical declivity and fragments of a second carina. Elytral surface covered with very fine punctation, fine rugosity and flattened pustules. Lateral (reflexed) part of elytra finely punctate. Epipleura smooth. Visible abdominal ventrites finely punctate and covered with light setae. Intercoxal process of visible abdominal ventrite 1 depressed.

Legs long. Length(width) ratio of pro-, meso- and metafemora 98(23): 108(20): 128(19); that for corresponding tibiae 80(11): 90(15): 125(15).

Aedeagus as in Figs 5–7; length 4.1 mm (when body length 14.3 mm). Length of paramere 1.6, width 0.7 mm.

Female (Figs 30–31). Body wider, elytra more swollen than in male. Humeral carina more obliterated at base. Meso- and metatibiare more distinctly widening in distal half. Antennomeres 8 to 11 shorter than in male, their length(width) ratio 15(15) : 16(16) : 16(16) : 23(16). Apical declivity of elytra steep, elytral apex produced in the form of short flattened prominence. Pronotum 1.22–1.31 times as wide as long, 1.61–1.73 times as wide as head. Elytra 1.46–1.52 times as long as wide, 1.52–1.56 times as wide as pronotum. Ovipositor as in Figs 11–13; spiculum ventrale as in Fig. 14; reservoirs of defensive glands as in Fig. 15.

Female genital tubes (Fig. 16). Spermathecal duct long and thin. Length of spermathecal duct 58 mm, that of spermathecal gland, 77 mm, with body length 15.5 mm. First and second reservoirs of spermatheca forming a well-developed common base, bent in distal part. Base of spermathecal sphincter rather long.

Male body length 14.2–14.3 mm, width 6.6 mm; female length 14.8–15.3 mm, width 7.6–8.1 mm.

KEY TO THE SUBTRIBES AND GENERA OF BLAPTINI

The subsequent text is a translation of the identification key to Blaptini published by MEDVEDEV (2000, 2001*a*: 33–38), with some modification, e. g. inclusion of *Viettagona* gen. n. The many figures published by him are not repeated here. For a successful identification the reader should use both this key and the figures in the above mentioned book.

- I (IV) Metatarsomeres and usually also mesotarsomeres compressed laterally, but apical declivity of elytra always without sutural tubercles. If compression not apparent, at least one of the following features can be observed: apical spur of female protibia very large, nearly as wide basally as tibial apex; apex of parameres with deep and sharp incision; basal piece of aedeagus with apical lateral lobes, apical part of ovipositor (coxite) in lateral view forming convex surface at base of apical lobes
- II (III) Female protibia with one large spur nearly as wide basally as femoral apex; male protibia with two spurs: one larger but much narrower than protibia and another smaller. Eyes not protruding, not reaching width of temples. Protarsomere 1 simple

subtribe Gnaptorina G. MEDVEDEV, 2001 (type genus: *Gnaptor* BRULLÉ, 1832)

- 1(1)Basal piece of aedeagus without apical lobes, apex of parameres with deep and sharp incision. Ventral surface of apical part of ovipositor flattened in lateral view Gnaptor BRULLÉ, 1832
- III (II) Male and female protibia with two spurs which may strongly differ in length, but base of larger spur considerably narrower than protibia even in female. If protibia with one spur only, eyes very large, strongly protruding. Ventral surface of apical part of ovipositor convex in lateral view

subtribe Prosodina SKOPIN, 1960 (type genus: Prosodes ESCHSCHOLTZ, 1829)

- 1(2)Eyes very large, strongly protruding from temple, width measured across eyes 1.3-1.5 as wide as width measured across genae. Male and female protibia with one spur. Female protarsomere 1 often securiform, strongly compressed laterally Tagona FISCHER DE WALDHEIM, 1822
- 2(1)Eyes normal, not protruding, temples parallel-sided or convergent. Female protarsomere 1 simple. - Male basal protarsomeres often with hair brush on plantar surface

Prosodes ESCHSCHOLTZ, 1829

- IV(I) Meta- and mesotarsomeres not compressed laterally; if compressed (Remipedella), apical declivity of elytra with two sutural tubercles. - Apical part of ovipositor angulately or cuneately narrowing in lateral view. Basal piece of aedeagus without apical lateral lobes
- V (VI) Apical declivity of elytra with two sutural tubercles. Elytral epipleura smooth, epipleural carina effaced. Antennae short, barely reaching anterior edge of pronotum if directed backwards. Anterior margin of clypeus with brush of yellow hairs. Pro- and mesotibia strongly arcuate, metatibia strongly dilated toward apex, where covered with sharp granules. Mesoand metatarsomeres strongly compressed laterally, plantar surface with subtribe Remipedellina SEMENOV, 1906 long pale hairs (type genus: Remipedella SEMENOV, 1906)
 - 1 (1) Body small (7.1–9.6 mm). Antennomeres 7 to 10 transverse. Outer surface of apical half of protibia smooth, shiny

Remipedella SEMENOV, 1906

VI(V)Apical declivity of elytra without sutural tubercles. Elytral epipleura with sharp carina. Antennae longer, clearly surpassing anterior edge of pronotum if directed backwards

VII (VIII) Antennomere 7 narrower than 8. Apical part of ovipositor short, 1–1.4 times as long as wide. Lobes of ovipositor more or less densely covered with setae. – Elytra not produced apically. Male abdomen without hairy pit on the border between visible ventrites 1 and 2

subtribe Gnaptorinina G. MEDVEDEV, 2001

(type genus: Gnaptorina REITTER, 1887)

- 1 (6) Upper spur of protibia noticeably larger than lower spur; in female, always larger than in male (Fig. 61 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*)
- 2 (3) Upper edge of inner surface of profemur with tooth or strong, somewhat angularly arcuate prominence (Fig. 66 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*). Upper spur of female protibia very large, lower spur missing. Parameres evenly or shallowly arcuately narrowing to apex, or, sometimes, more abruptly narrowing near apex (Figs 825, 828, 831 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*) *Itagonia* REITTER, 1877
- 3 (2) Upper edge of inner surface of profemur straight or, if femur widened in apical part, broadly arcuate
- 4 (5) Prosternum in front of procoxae vertical or nearly vertical. Female metatibia with inner spur dilated apically, spatulate; upper spur of protibia very large, rounded apically. Parameres abruptly narrowing in apical part, deeply emarginate on outer side (Fig. 857 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*) Gnaptorina REITTER, 1887
- 5 (4) Prosternum in front of procoxae oblique to the horizontal plane. Female metatibia with inner spur rather narrow, parallel-sided; upper spur of protibia noticeably larger than lower spur, but not particularly enlarged. Parameres evenly narrowing apically (Fig. 818 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*) Tagonoides FAIRMAIRE, 1886
- 6(1) Spurs of protibia subequal in length
- 7 (8) Prosternum in front of procoxae vertical. Upper edge of inner surface of profemur without tooth or angular prominence. Tibiae usually more strongly dilated in apical part (Figs 69, 70 in Medvedev 2001a); coxae, trochanters, femora and tibiae often red, tarsi dark; basal antennomeres also often red

Agnaptoria REITTER, 1887

8 (7) Prosternum in front of procoxae oblique to the horizontal plane. – Tibiae regularly widening from base to apex, dark

- 9 (12) In male, inner surface of at least pro- and mesotibiae densely covered with pale hairs in apical part. Dorsal margin of inner surface of profemur sometimes dentate
- 10 (11) In male, inner apical surface of all tibiae densely covered with pale hairs. Pronotum distinctly cordate, with punctation obsolete *Viettagona* gen. n.
- 11 (10) In male, inner apical surface of pro- and mesotibiae densely covered with pale hairs. Pronotum not or at most indistinctly cordate, with punctation fine or moderately coarse

Asidoblaps FAIRMAIRE, 1886

- 12 (9) In male, all tibiae lacking pale hair brush in apical part of inner surface. – Dorsal margin of inner surface of profemur without tooth or angular prominence
- 13 (14) Epipleural carina visible from above throughout its entire length, parallel to elytral outline. – Parameres strongly elongate, rectilinearly narrowing to apices (Figs 855, 856 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*) *Montagona* G. MEDVEDEV, 1998
- 14 (13) Epipleural carina only partly visible from above
- 15 (16) Pronotum distinctly cordate, strongly narrowing toward base (maximum width 1.3 times basal width) (Fig. 68 in Medvedev 2001a). Anterior margin of pronotum deeply and arcuately emarginate. Elytra with humeral carina sharp, dorsal surface flat. Ventral surface of all tarsi without hair brushes or tufts. Parameres very short, evenly narrowing apically (Fig. 873 in MEDVEDEV 2001a) Colasia KOCH, 1965
- 16 (15) One or more characters not as above: pronotum may not be cordate, with shallowly emarginate anterior margin; humeral carina may not be sharp; hair brushes may be present on basal proand mesotarsomeres

- 17 (18) Parameres more or less evenly narrowing apically, their outer margin slightly arcuately convex (Figs 821–823 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*). Epipleural carina not visible from above. Male pro- and mesotarsomeres 1 and 2 with small hair brush at apical margin. Dorsal surface of elytra with 5 longitudinal carinae between sutural margin and outer side of elytra. Humeral carina obsolete *Blaptogonia* G. MEDVEDEV, 1998
- 18 (17) Parameres sharply narrowing apically, their outer margins more or less arcuately emarginate in dorsal view (Figs 857, 858, 870, 871 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*)
- 19 (22) Epipleural carina visible from above in anterior third, sometimes also near apex. Dorsal surface of elytra without longitudinal carinae
- 20 (21) Epipleural carina visible from above in anterior third and at elytral apices. Plantar surface of male protarsomeres 1 to 3 and mesotarsomere 1 with hair brush. Parameres moderately elongate (1.8 times as long as broad), abruptly narrowing in apical part (Fig. 857 in MEDVEDEV 2001*a*)

Pseudognaptorina KASZAB, 1977

- 21 (20) Epipleural carina visible from above in anterior third only. Plantar surface of male protarsomeres 1 to 3 and mesotarsomere 1 without hair brush. Parameres strongly elongate (2.4 times as long as broad), almost cuneately narrowing to apices (Fig. 858 in MEDVEDEV 2001a) Sintagona G. MEDVEDEV, 1998
- 22 (19) Epipleural carina not visible from above, concealed by convex lateral part of elytra. – Male protarsomere 1 with small hair brush at apical margin. Dorsal surface of elytra with 2 smooth longitudinal carinae between sutural margin and humeral carina *Nepalindia* G. MEDVEDEV, 1998

- VIII (VII) Apical part of ovipositor (coxite) elongate, 1.5–2.3 as long as wide. Lobes of ovipositor with less developed setae, usually almost glabrous. Antennomere 7 not narrower than 8, often broader; if a little narrower, either elytra mucronate, i. e. produced to form tail-like process; or mentum deeply notched; or basal piece of aedeagus strongly narrowing apically, but parameres small, strongly curved upwards; or male abdomen with reddish hairy pit on the border between visible ventrites 1 and 2 subtribe Blaptina LATREILLE, 1817 (type genus: *Blaps* FABRICIUS, 1775)
 - Pronotum elongate, about 1.1 as long as wide. Protibia with one spur. Male abdomen with reddish hairy pit on the border between visible ventrites 1 and 2. Body slender, strongly elongate *Thaumatoblaps* KASZAB et G. MEDVEDEV, 1984
 - 2 (1) Pronotum clearly transverse. Protibia with two spurs
 - 3 (4) Lower spur of protibia distinctly shorter than outer. In male, plantar surface of protarsomeres 1 and 2 and mesotarsomere 1 with flattened apical hair brush *Nalepa* REITTER, 1887
 - 4 (3) Apical spurs of protibia subequal in length
 - 5 (12) Upper edge of inner surface of profemur with subapical tooth or angular (sometimes blunt) prominence. Male abdomen always without hairy pit on the border between visible ventrites 1 and 2
 - 6 (7) Male profemur with one tooth on upper edge of inner surface and with another one on lower edge. Female with one tooth on upper edge only. Parameres broad, equally narrowing toward apex, male with all femora bent in proximal part

Coelocnemodes BATES, 1879

- 7 (6) Profemur of both male and female with one tooth on upper edge of inner surface, lower edge without tooth
- 8 (9) Elytral apex produced, forming tail-like process. Pronotum clearly deplanate along lateral edge. Male metatibia distinctly bent in S-shape. Tooth on upper edge of profemur sharp, with acute-angled apex. Male pro- and mesotibia with apical spot of small, pale hairs. Plantar surface of protarsomeres 1 to 4 with bunches of pale setae at apex. Parameres strongly narrowing apically

Dilablaps A. BOGATSHEV, 1976

- 9 (8) Elytral apex not produced, without tail-like process. If elytra produced, pronotum not deplanate along lateral edge, and male metatibia not S-shaped
- 10 (11) Pronotum more or less deplanate along lateral edge. Elytra always without longitudinal grooves. Antennomere 7 as wide as or slightly wider than 8. Body ovate Caenoblaps KÖNIG, 1906
- 11 (10) Pronotum evenly convex between lateral edges. Elytra sometimes with longitudinal grooves. Antennomere 7 as wide as or distinctly wider than 8. Body elongate, slender

Dila FISCHER DE WALDHEIM, 1844

- 12 (5) Inner surface of profemur without tooth or angular prominence. If profemur with tooth on inner surface (*Blaps femoralis* FISCHER DE WALDHEIM, 1844 of Mongolia), male abdomen with hairy pit on the border between visible ventrites 1 and 2
- 13 (14) Plantar surface of male protarsomeres 1 to 3 and mesotarsomere 1 with complete hair brush.– Elytral epipleura ending before sutural angle, epipleural carina visible from above throughout its entire length. Elytral apex not produced. Antennomere 7 strongly elongate (2.8 times as long as wide). Common shaft of spiculum ventrale long *Protoblaps* G. MEDVEDEV, 1998
- 14 (13) Plantar surface of male protarsomeres 1 to 3 and mesotarsomere 1 without hair brush, or much larger setae present on protarsomeres 1 and 2. Elytral apex often produced, forming tail-like process, or male with hairy pit on the border between visible abdominal ventrites 1 and 2
 Blaps FABRICIUS, 1775

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