

RIC IV.3 11b

This is a fairly common coin type, catalogued as *RIC IV.3 11b* by numismatic societies (H. Mattingly, *The Roman Imperial Coinage*, volume IV.3, coin type 11b). It is a silver and bronze alloy (less than 50% silver) Roman antoninianus (= two denarii) of the emperor Trajan Decius, who ruled from 249-251 CE.

On the obverse is a bust of Trajan Decius, wearing a crown, with the legend IMP C M Q TRAIANVS DECIVS AVG (the C could stand for Gaius, but more likely Caesar, with his praenomen omitted).

On the reverse is the emperor on horseback, saluting with his right hand and holding a scepter in his left, with the legend ADVENTVS AVGG. This image and legend indicates the ceremonial arrival of the emperor to Rome as a military victor. There is a puzzle here: all other examples of this coin type have the legend ADVENTVS AVG (Adventus Augusti – arrival of the emperor), but this one appears to have a second G (for the plural form Adventus Augustorum – arrival of the emperors). AVGG is commonly used when referring to two emperors, as was the case with Trajan Decius' predecessors, Philip I and his son Philip II, but Trajan Decius is the sole Augustus represented here. Was the coin mis-struck on the analogy of other Decius coins with such legends on the reverse as AEQVITAS AVGG, CONCORDIA AVGG, and SAECVLARES AVGG?

At 22 millimeters in diameter and 4.05 grams in weight this coin has the standard specifications of this coin type.

Its condition would probably be regarded as *Very Fine Plus*: the details and letters are clearly visible and there is very little wear. Comparable coins are selling in today's market for around \$75.