

**A NEW SPECIES OF THE GENUS *PURPURICENUS* DEJEAN,  
1821 FROM GREECE (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)**

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**ABSTRACT:** *Purpuricenus comenius* sp. nov. from Laconia region in the southeastern part of the Peloponnese peninsula (Greece) is described and illustrated. The new species belongs to the *Purpuricenus graecus* species group. It is compared to the three other similar species known to occur in Greece (*P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993, *Purpuricenus budensis* (Götz, 1783) and *Purpuricenus apiceniger* Pic, 1914).

**KEY WORDS:** Cerambycidae, *Purpuricenus*, new species, Greece, Palaearctic region.

Eight species of the genus *Purpuricenus* Dejean, 1821 are known from Greece. *P. kaehleri* (Linnaeus, 1758), which is widely distributed and rather common, is regarded to be represented in the area by the nominative subspecies. *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993 is species endemic to Greece. It is known from the northern Greece (Grevena) to the southern Peloponnese (Taygetos Mts. near Trypi). *Purpuricenus apiceniger* Pic, 1914 is very rare species known only after single specimens from the Balkan Peninsula (from Trieste area in NE Italy to Etolia in Greece). *P. globulicollis* known from some localities in Greece, was traditionally regarded as being represented here by the nominative subspecies only. Recently (Rapuzzi & Sama, 2013) its populations from Albania, from Greece (Ossa mountain, Kokkino Nero; Eubea Island; Peloponneso, Karies), Montenegro (Morace pl.; Cetinje; Boka Kotorska), Bulgaria (Asenovgrad), were described as *P. globulicollis skypetarum* Rapuzzi & Sama, 2013. Very close to *P. globulicollis* is species *Purpuricenus schurmanni* Sláma, 1985 and, pending molecular data, it could be alternatively considered a distinct species or only a subspecies of the latter taxon (Rapuzzi & Sama, 2013). Other two species *Purpuricenus dalmatinus* Sturm, 1843 and *Purpuricenus budensis* (Götz, 1783) is widely distributed and common in Greece. Populations of *P. desfontainii*, known from many localities in Greece, are regarded as *P. desfontainii inhumeralis* Pic, 1891. It is known from continental Greece to Syria and Israel. The nominative subspecies occurs in North Africa (from Libya to Morocco) and Crete. The subspecies should be having hybridization areas at least in Greece (Peloponnese).

Recently, specimens representing a new species of *Purpuricenus* from Laconia region in the southeastern part of the Peloponnese peninsula (Greece) were discovered. The new species is described herein.

***Purpuricenus comenius* sp. n.**

(Figs. 1-2)

**Type material.** Holotype, ♂: Greece-Peloponnisos, Agios Petros, 6.6.2012, lgt. D. Loupanec (coll. J. Vartanis); 6 paratypes: 1♀: Greece-Peloponnisos, Karýes,

13.6.2012 (ex larva *Quercus coccifera*), lgt. I. Martinů (coll. J. Klícha); 1♀: Greece, Peloponnese, Laconia, 2 km NE Karyes, 10.2.2013 (ex larva *Quercus coccifera*), lgt. P. Zlámal (coll. R. Ambrus); 1♀: Greece, Peloponnese, Laconia, 2.5 km NE Karyes, 18.6.2013 (on *Quercus coccifera*), lgt. P. Zlámal (coll. P. Zlámal); 1♂ and 1♀: Greece-Peloponnisos, Karýes, 18.5.2014 (ex larva *Quercus coccifera*), lgt. I. Martinů (coll. J. Vartanis); 1♂: Greece-Peloponnisos, Karýes, 18.5.2014 (ex larva *Quercus coccifera*), lgt. I. Martinů (coll. J. Klícha).

**Description.** Body length in males: 12.5-13.5 mm, in females: 11.0-13.5 mm; body width in males: 3.1-3.2 mm, in females: 3.3-3.6 mm. Body black; elytra and pronotum red, marked with black. Head deep punctured, with a deep groove between eyes. Front part of the head short and wide, with many erect black hairs. Antennal tubercles prominent. Pronotum globular, curvature relatively uniform, with two prominent dorsal pronotal tubercles. Lateral thoracic tubercles blunt and very small, inconspicuous. Pronotum 1.2-1.25 x wider than longer, with almost the same width as the elytra on the base; very densely and roughly punctured, gaps between dots very small and smaller than dots themselves. Several short, thin erect black hairs, denser at the sides. Shiny swelling in the middle of the pronotum, with the size of 1-2 mm, quite smooth, without dots. The shiny surface in females quite small, unlike males, whose shiny surface is larger and more visible. 2/3 of the pronotum red and 1/3 consists of a black strip in the basal portion. Pronotum of males black on lateral sides, while it is red in females. Scutellum straight on the sides with sharp angles, triangular shape. Elytra slightly long, parallel, rounded in the last 1/5. Male elytra 2.25 x longer than wide on the base, female elytra 2.10-2.20 x longer than wide on the base. Punctuation rougher, gaps between dots 2 times wider than the dots themselves. Elytra red, a black spot expands into a sharp triangular angle about 1-2 mm behind the scutellum, the angle then expands and reaches the apex, the last 1/4 completely black. Elytra glossy. Antennae dark brown to brown-black, shiny, with black adjacent hairs. 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> antennomeres dark brown, 4<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> antennomeres darker, more brown-black. 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> antennomeres quite expanded into a thorn, these antennomeres have a serrated shape. Male antennae exceed the apex of elytra by about 2.5 of antennomeres, female antennae also brown or brown-black and achieve up to 90% ends of elytra. Legs long, black, roughly punctured with several black raised hairs. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> metatarsomeres together do not reach the length of the 1<sup>st</sup> metatarsomere. The width of the 2<sup>nd</sup> metatarsomere is 80- 85% of its length. Ventral side of the body sparsely pubescence, punctuation very sparse and fine.

**Differential diagnosis.** The described species *Purpuricenus comenius* sp. n. is related to the species *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993, from which it differs in size, body shape, colour of the pronotum and elytra, length and width of antennae, shape of their antennomeres, length and width of the legs, metatarsomeres and many other smaller differences. *Purpuricenus comenius* sp. n. has a larger size, the size of male body is from 12.5 mm to 13.5 mm, of the female body from 11.0 mm to 13.5 mm. *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993 is smaller, the size of the body of males is from 11.0 mm to 13.0 mm, of females around 10.0 mm in average. *Purpuricenus comenius* sp. n. has the pronotum 1.2-1.25 x wider than longer, male elytra are 2.25 x longer than wide on the base, female elytra are 2.10-2.20 x longer than wider on the base. *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993 has the pronotum 1.14-1.23 x wider than long, male elytra are 2.15-2.45 x longer than

wide on the base, female elytra are 2.35 x long than wide on the base. The pronotum of *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993 is predominantly black, or with two red spots in the anterior half, the pronotum of *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. is red from 2/3 and 1/3 consists of a black strip in the basal portion. Male pronotum is black in the sides, female pronotum is red on the sides. The black spot near the seam of the elytra of *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. is similar to *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993, but close behind the scutellum it expands into a sharp triangular angle, which then extends and reaches the apex, the last 1/4 of elytra is completely black. Antennae of *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. are longer, wider and antennomeres are more serrated than in case of *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993. These differences are visible especially in females. *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. has longer legs and 1<sup>st</sup> metatarsomere is significantly longer than 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> metatarsomeres together. *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993 has shorter, slimmer legs and the 1<sup>st</sup> metatarsomere is almost as long as the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> metatarsomeres together. Punctuation of elytra of *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. is rougher, the gaps between the dots are 2 times wider than the dots themselves, elytral apex is rounded. *P. graecus graecus* Sláma, 1993 whose elytra are punctured very roughly, dots are larger and sparser than in case of *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n., elytral apex is irregular, predominantly wavelike and widely cut off.

*Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. differs from similar species *Purpuricenius apiceniger* Pic, 1914 and *Purpuricenius budensis* (Götz, 1783) especially due to a small, slimmer and longer (in proportion to the width) rectangular body, arched pronotum with small blunt lateral tubercles, short scutellum, shorter antennae and many other smaller details. The black spot near the suture of the elytra of *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. begins not far behind the scutellum, it expands into a sharp triangular angle, which then expands and reaches the apex, the last 1/4 of elytra is completely black. *Purpuricenius budensis* (Götz, 1783) has wide common spot usually begins in the middle of elytra and expands all over their end. The black spot on the elytra of *Purpuricenius apiceniger* Pic, 1914 is in the shape of a pear and it goes from the scutellum to the end of elytra.

**Remark on bionomy.** *Purpuricenius comenius* sp. n. develops in *Quercus coccifera*. Females of this species preferred oviposit on living twigs of their host. Newly hatched larvae feed subcortically and they dig a spiral girdle, which interrupts the sap circulation. Finally inducing the drying of the twigs and leaves. Adults can usually be found flying around tree tops or sitting on the leaves of their host.

**Etymology.** A new species is dedicated to the famous Czech philosopher, pedagogue and theologian Jan Amos Komenský, who was born in Uherský Brod, on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1592. Jan Amos Komenský is considered a founder of the modern pedagogy and he has earned a nickname Teacher of Nations.

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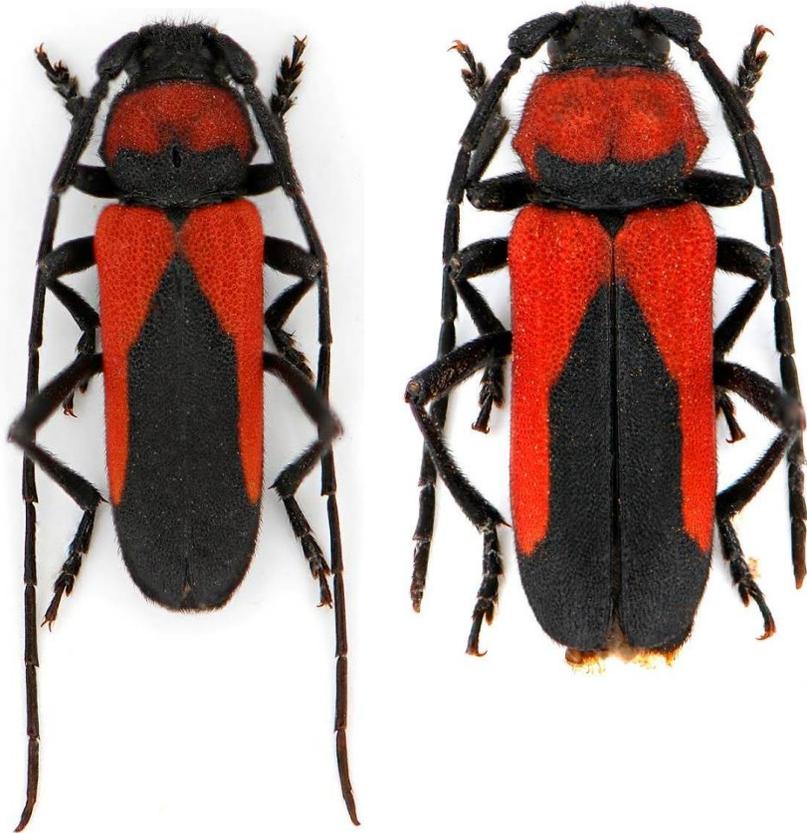


Figure 1. *Purpuricenus comenius* sp. n.: Holotype, male (left) and paratype, female (right).