

**ROPALOPUS CAROLINI SP. NOV. - DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SPECIES FROM GREECE-PELOPONNESE PENINSULA (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)**

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**ABSTRACT:** The new species *Ropalopus carolini* sp. nov., comes from Greece, and for the time being, it is endemic to Greece- Peloponnese Peninsula. *Ropalopus carolini* sp. nov., was compared with the species *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 / *Ropalopus clavipes* Fabricius, 1775 / *Ropalopus siculus* Stierlin, 1864 / *Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824.

**KEY WORDS:** Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, *Ropalopus*, new species, Greece-Peloponnese Peninsula

***Ropalopus carolini* sp. nov.**

*Ropalopus carolini*, a new species of the genus *Ropalopus* Mulsant, 1839 from southeast Europe (Greece) was found on a thistle (*Carduus* L.), plant in a southern part of the Peloponnese Peninsula, Mani area, at an altitude above the sea level of 700 m, in an oak forest. Until now, it is an endemic species within the framework of the whole genus, in which the body size of males and females ranges between 28 and 30 mm.

The new species was compared with all the species of the genus known from Greece and/or the whole Balkan or from Italy, from which it can be differentiated by its morphological characters as described below.

**HOLOTYPE:** male – Greece, Peloponnese / Mani Peninsula-Nimfio 700 m, VI. 2018 lgt. R.Borek (coll. Janis Vartanis).

**PARATYPE:** 1 x female – Greece, Peloponnese / Mani Peninsula- Nimfio 700 m, V. 2017 (lgt.,coll. R.Borek). 1 x male, 1 x female – Greece, Peloponnese / Mani Peninsula- Nimfio 700 m, VI. 2018 lgt. R.Borek.

Length: males – 28 mm, females – 29 - 30 mm.

**Body:** entirely black, with moderate shine, including pronotum, legs and elytra, without metallic lustre and colour, very elongate in general, without considerable dilation in both males and females.

**Head:** coarsely and densely wrinkled- punctate, with considerable midline furrow on its vertex.

**Antennae:** black, inner side of antennomeres 3 - 5 with short, erect setae. Antennomeres not serrate contrastingly to other species, without remarkably extended teeth on inner and outer sides (see the photo). Antennae as long as body in males, reaching to half body length in females.

Pronotum: coarsely and densely wrinkled- punctate, with a smooth elevated area on its summit. Considerably wider than head, hexagonal, considerably angularly widened laterally. Only laterally very sparsely setaceous. Its top surface without any erect setae.

Scutellum: coarsely punctate, with broadly rounded apex.

Elytra: black throughout their surface, without any metallic lustre. Very long, at least 2.4 times as long as wide at base (at humeri). Anterior half of elytra wrinkled, coarsely punctate and very sparsely setaceous. Posterior half finely and densely punctate, with denser, decumbent setation. Elytra moderately widened toward apex, but not as distinctly as in other species. Elytral apex rounded.

Abdominal sternites: with fine and decumbent setae in both males and females, setae pointing in one direction.

Legs: black, with very sparse and decumbent setation, particularly on tibiae.

#### **Extension of *Ropalopus* species:**

1- *R. carolini* sp.n.,- Greece / Peloponnese Peninsula.

2- *R. boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 – Greece.

3- *R. clavipes* Fabricius, 1775 – Balkan, central Europe.

4- *R. siculus* Stierlin, 1864 – Italy / Sicilia Isl.

5- *R. insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824 – Croatia, Romania.

6- *R. mali* Holzschuh, 1993 – Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan.

#### **Differential diagnosis:**

The new species *Ropalopus carolini* sp.n., was found in the southern part of the Greek Peninsula Peloponnesus, in its southernmost area Mani. Imagines were found in oak forests, sitting on plants *Carduus* L. The host plant is very likely to be *Quercus*, and if so, then the insects do not fall into the genus *Ropalopus* Mulsant, 1839 whose representatives have the host plant *Acer* sp., and do not visit *Carduus* type plants.

*Ropalopus carolini* sp.n., belongs to largest representatives of the genus and its morphological characters differentiate it considerably from other species known from Italy, Greece and the whole Balkan Peninsula. From Greece and particularly from Peloponnesus, three large species of the genus are known *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 / *Ropalopus clavipes* Fabricius, 1775 / *Ropalopus siculus* Stierlin, 1864, which were studied for comparison and subsequent description of the new species. Obvious differences observable in the new species are shown in the colour of elytra, shape and length of the whole body, antennae, and further differences observable under a magnifying glass or stereoscopic microscope, pubescence of abdominal sternites, pronotum, elytra, etc. Other species and their characters exerting differences from the new species will be detailed below.

*Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017: I have a number of specimens including a paratype and in addition, according to the original description by Rapuzzi, in this species, the anterior half of the elytra has metallic lustre and obviously golden-green colour. The elytra are more compressed and more widened toward the elytral apex compared to the new species. They are relatively shorter compared to their width at humeri. The general variability within the holotype and all the paratypes of the species *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 is constant in colours. The holotype: antennae have short, dense, erect setae on the inner side, antennomeres 3-8 have a considerable longitudinal tooth on the inner side, antennomeres 9-10 have a short tooth.

*Ropalopus siculus* Stierlin, 1864: this species is very similar to the preceding species *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017. It also has metallic lustre in the anterior half of the elytra with reddish-green colour. The type specimens come from the isle Sicily (Italy), but it was also discovered in Greece (in the Thessaly Region). This is a smaller species, the body length of males and females ranges between 16 and 20 mm.

*Ropalopus clavipes* Fabricius, 1775: a black, matte species with the body length of only 2.1 times the elytra width at humeri. The scutellum is glabrous. Antennae of males are distinctly longer than the body, those of females either are as long as the body or slightly exceed beyond the body length. Antennomeres 3-10 are obviously extended apically on outer side, to produce large thorns. The abdomen of males as well as females with finely scattered pubescence, the ventral surface with rather long, semierect setae.

*Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824: the occurrence of the species is rather typical for the northern Balkan and has its elytra with considerable metallic lustre throughout, with green-blue to reddish colour. The pronotum has a large, nearly impunctate area on its summit. The antennae unambiguously exceed beyond the body length.

*Ropalopus carolini* sp.n., - the new species exerts very different morphological characters compared to the species listed above. It is completely black, without metallic lustre and any colours. Its antennomeres are not as distinctly extended in thorns and are also not as serrate as in the remaining species (see the photo). It has a considerably longer body and the elytra are more elongate in relation to their width at humeri. The second half of the elytra is not as widened as in the species *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017. In males as well as females, the antennae are considerably shorter than in the species *Ropalopus clavipes* Fabricius, 1775 having the antennae considerably longer than the body. It is a very large species within the whole genus, and all the other species are considerably smaller with exceptions of *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 and *Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824. All the above mentioned species of the genus are represented by several specimens in my collection including several paratypes.

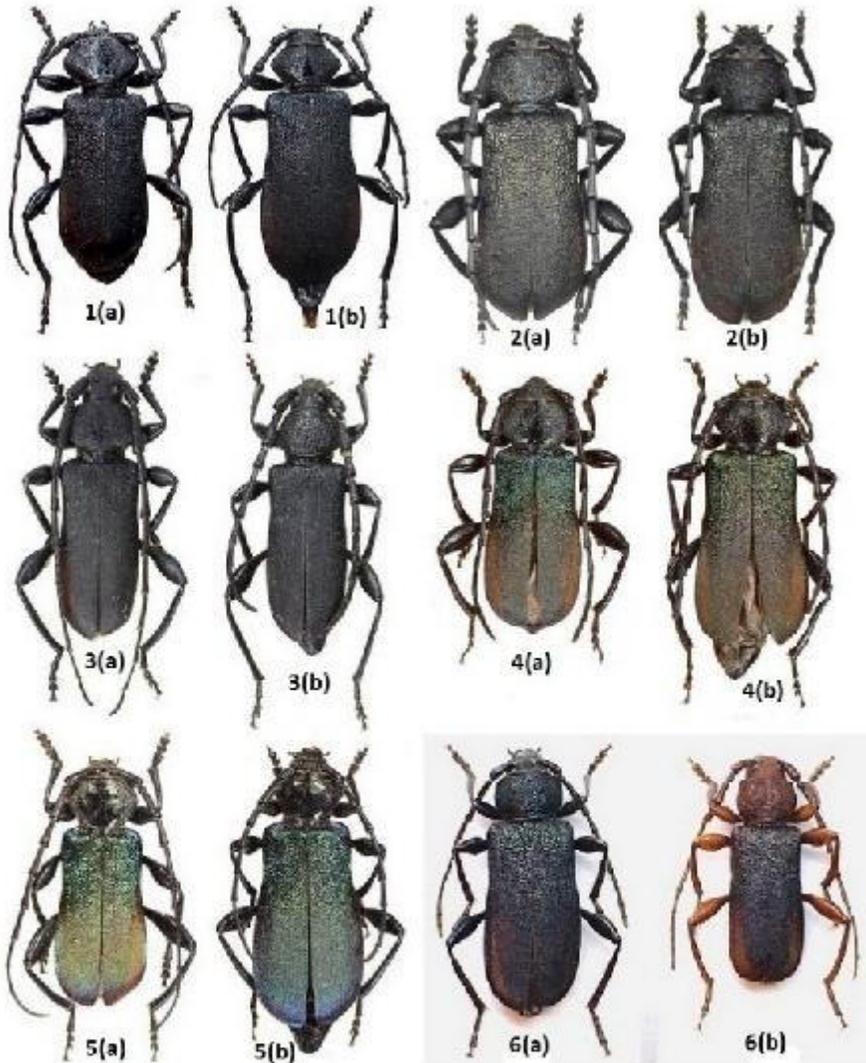
**Etymology:** The new species from Greece / Peloponnesus Peninsula, *Ropalopus carolini* sp.n., was given its specific name after Carolina Borek, a daughter of my colleague Robert Borek dwelling on Peloponnesus, in the area Mani.

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1(a)- 1(b) - *Ropalopus carolini* sp.n., - (male/female)

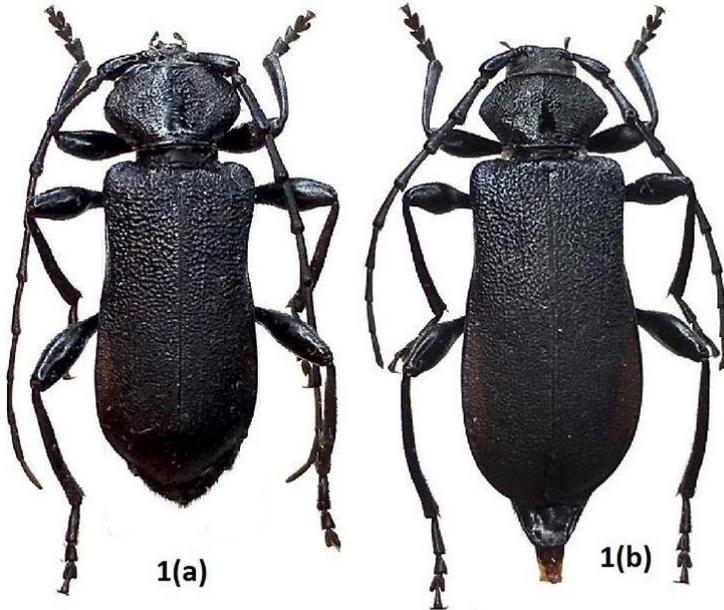
2(a)- 2(b) - *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 - (male/female)

3(a)- 3(b) - *Ropalopus clavipes* Fabricius, 1775 - (male/female)

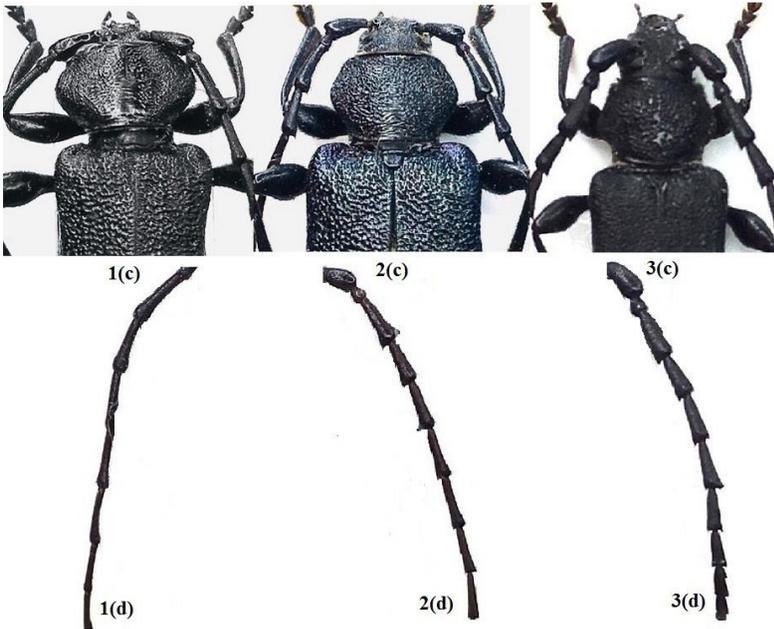
4(a)- 4(b) - *Ropalopus siculus* Stierlin, 1864 - (male/female)

5(a)- 5(b) - *Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824 - (male/female)

6(a)- 6(b) - *Ropalopus mali* Holzschuh, 1993 - (male/female)



**Ropalopus carolini** sp.n., - 1(a)- male / 1(b)- female



1(c)- 1(d)- *Ropalopus carolini* sp.n., - (pronotum / antenna)  
 2(c)- 2(d)- *Ropalopus boreki* Rapuzzi, 2017 - (pronotum / antenna)  
 3(c)- 3(d)- *Ropalopus clavipes* Fabricius, 1775 - (pronotum / antenna)