

**DESCRIPTION OF A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *CARABUS*
(*MEGODONTUS*) *CROATICUS* DEJEAN, 1826 FROM SERBIA
(COLEOPTERA: CARABIDAE: CARABINAE)**

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ABSTRACT: A new *Carabus* L., 1758 *taxon* from Kopaonik Mountains, Serbia are described and figured: *Carabus (Megodontus) croaticus antoniocaldoni* new subspecies.

KEY WORDS: *Carabus*, *Megodontus*, *croaticus*, new subspecies, Serbia.

Carabus (Megodontus) croaticus Dejean, 1826 is widespread with different subspecies in the Western part of the Balkan peninsula from Slovenia to Macedonia and Central-Northern Albania (Apfelbeck, 1904; Breuning, 1932-1936; Drovenik, 1995; Imura et al., 1996; Brezina, 2003; Turin et al., 2003; Deuve, 2004) through the Dinaric Alps chain. The higher number of subspecies is known from the Central-Southern part of the Mountain system: Bosnia Hercegovina, Montenegro, Albania, Macedonia; especially in the South some forms are endemic and very local. *C. (M.) c. antoniocaldoni* n. ssp. was found on Kopaonik Mountain in Central-Southern Serbia and up to now it is the Easternmost known subspecies.

***Carabus (Megodontus) croaticus antoniocaldoni* n. ssp.**
(Figs. 1, 2)

Holotype: male, Serbia, Kopaonik mountain, 1500m, IX.2013, I. Rapuzzi and L. Caldon leg; Ivan Rapuzzi collection.

Paratype: female, same data as Holotype; Ivan Rapuzzi collection.

Description of Holotype male. Length including mandibles: 28,5 mm, maximum width of elytra: 9,6 mm. Color black without any metallic luster, only the margin of elytra and hind angle of pronotum with a very faint greenish; shine. Ticked head, surface punctured on the base, vertex smooth; short neck; hemispheric eyes, moderately prominent; vertex slightly convex. Mandibles long and strong, curved uniformly. Retinacular teeth of mandibles bidentate. Labrum bilobate. Sub apical segment of labial palpi bi-setose. Apical segment of maxillary and labial palpi moderately dilated. Tooth of mentum large and acuminate, shorter than lateral lobes. Antennae thin, reaching the half of elytra.

Small pronotum, very moderately sinuate, slightly transverse (1,25 times as broad as long), maximum width on the anterior third; disc of pronotum flat; sides margined, narrow upwards; hind angles protruding behind its base; upper surface of pronotum densely and strongly punctured, wrinkled near its base; basal depressions deep.

Elytra elongate, ovate, moderately convex, maximum width behind the middle; shoulders narrow and rounded; elytral sculpture very strong, very rough and disrupted.

Legs long and strong. Protarsi with 4 dilated segments, adhesive sole of the 4th tarsomere fully developed.

Male aedeagus (Fig. 3a, 3b).

Variability of the Paratype. Very small variability: the female is a little bit longer 32 mm. The elytra are a little more large and ovate. The apical segment of maxillary and labial palpi not dilated.

Etymology. The new *taxon* is very cordially dedicated to the memory of Mr. Antonio Caldon, father of Luisa Caldon, for his passion for nature and for environment.

Discussion. The new described subspecies from Kopaonik Mountain is of a great interest, it is the easternmost known form and it is the first time that the species is recognized on the East from Ibar river. The morphology of *C. croaticus antoniocaldoni* n. ssp. is very different from all know *C. croaticus* forms and it is probably one of the most distinct subspecies. The most important and peculiar characteristics of the new *taxon* are: black color without metallic luster, ticked head, smaller and not sinuate pronotum.

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Figure 1. *Carabus (Megodontus) croaticus antoniocaldoni* n. ssp. Holotype male; Fig. 2 Paratype female; Fig. 3a Male aedeagus frontal view; Fig. 3b Male aedeagus lateral view.



Figure 2. *Carabus (Megodontus) croaticus antoniocaldoni* n. ssp. Paratype female.



Figure 3. *Carabus (Megodontus) croaticus antoniocaldoni* n. ssp. a. Male aedeagus frontal view, b. Male aedeagus lateral view.