

**A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *PURPURICENUS KAEHLERI*
(LINNAEUS, 1758) (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)
FROM CORSICA ISLAND, FRANCE**

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ABSTRACT: The new subspecies *Purpuricenus kaehlerii corsicus* ssp. nov. comes from the northern part of the Corsica Island (France). For the time being, it is endemic to Corsica. It was compared with specimens of taxa known within its group: *Purpuricenus kaehlerii* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Purpuricenus kaehlerii menetriesi* Motschulsky, 1845.

KEY WORDS: Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, *Purpuricenus kaehlerii*, new subspecies, France, Palearctic region

***Purpuricenus kaehlerii corsicus* ssp. nov.**

Body: Quite black including the legs and antennae. Ventral side of abdomen sparsely pubescent, punctuation very sparse and fine.

Elytra: Cinnabar red, almostparallel, about 2.3times as long as wide at base. With very short and very sparse black pubescence. Punctures of elytra very coarse and deep, intervals between punctures being larger than puncture diameter. Elytral apex slightly emarginate, with small spine at suture. The large common black spot begins at end of anterior half of elytra and is extended to end of elytra. It is pear-shaped, very wide anteriorly, stepwise narrowing toward end and touching elytral apex. It reminds of pear situated upside down.

Scutellum: Black, triangular, with straight sides and acute angles.

Pronotum: Black, but partially red laterally, where small red circular spots are present. Pronotum with well developed lateral calli, spines. On disk more vaulted, with very coarse and very dense punctuation. Puncture diameter larger than intervals between punctures. Pronotum pubescence very sparse and short on disk, longer and denser on lateral surfaces.

Head: Anterior part of head short and wide, with rather dense, erect setae.

Antennae: Black, seemingly consisting of 12 antennomeres in males, but having antennomere 11 strongly appendiculate. Antennae very short compared to body length, at most one antennomere (or sometimes even none antennomere) exceeds beyond end of elytra. All males of other known subspecies (including the nominotypical form), have very long antennae exceeding at least beyond twice elytral length.

Legs: Black, femora and tibiae with black, decumbent pubescence. Ratios of leg length to body length considerably smaller than those in nominotypical form. Male metatarsi with decumbent, long setation. Basal metatarsomere as long as metatarsomeres 2 and 3 combined.

Body size: Males – 12-13 mm, female – 13 mm.

Ecology: It develops in oaks (*Quercus* L.), observed flying in oak forests, in the twilight. The main swarming period, late June and early July.

Holotypus: Male, Corsica Isl. (France), Pastina- San Martinu 17. 6. 2017, J. Vartanis leg. (det. et coll.). Paratypus: 1 x female, 2 x males, Corsica Isl. (France), Pastina- San Martinu 22. 6.–2. 7. 2017, J. Vartanis leg. (det. et coll.).

Differential diagnosis: Among the group considered here, the new subspecies *Purpuricenens kaehleri corsicus* ssp. nov., belongs to a principally different taxa. Its features are very characteristic and very different from the nominotypical form of *Purpuricenens kaehleri* (Linnaeus, 1758), as well as from the known subspecies *Purpuricenens kaehleri menetriesi* Motschulsky, 1845. Within its subgroup, the new subspecies *Purpuricenens kaehleri corsicus* ssp. nov. is a small subspecies, whose males reach their body length of at most 13cm, and in addition, have very short antennae exceeding beyond the elytral apex by not whole ultimate antennomere, contrastingly to the subspecies *Purpuricenens kaehleri* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Purpuricenens kaehleri menetriesi* Motschulsky, 1845, the antennae of which are very long, at least 1.75 times longer than the body. In addition, the new species has a very different black spot on the elytra, which begins as far as at the elytra midlength, is very wide anteriorly, and from there, it is stepwise narrowed toward elytra end in such a way that elytra apices are also black. In general comparison with all the taxa in the group, the new subspecies *Purpuricenens kaehleri corsicus* ssp. nov. is obviously and essentially different as to the body shape and length, shape of the black spot, length and widths of legs, and coarser punctuation of the elytra. For the time being, the subspecies is endemic to the Corsica Island (France).

Distribution of particular *Purpuricenens kaehleri* subspecies in Palaearctic region.

Purpuricenens kaehleri corsicus ssp. nov. – Corsica Island (France).

Purpuricenens kaehleri kaehleri (Linnaeus, 1758) – Europe, northern Turkey, Transcaucasia.

Purpuricenens kaehleri menetriesi Motschulsky, 1845 – Iran.

Etymology: The new subspecies *Purpuricenens kaehleri corsicus* ssp. nov. was described and named after the Mediterranean island Corsica.

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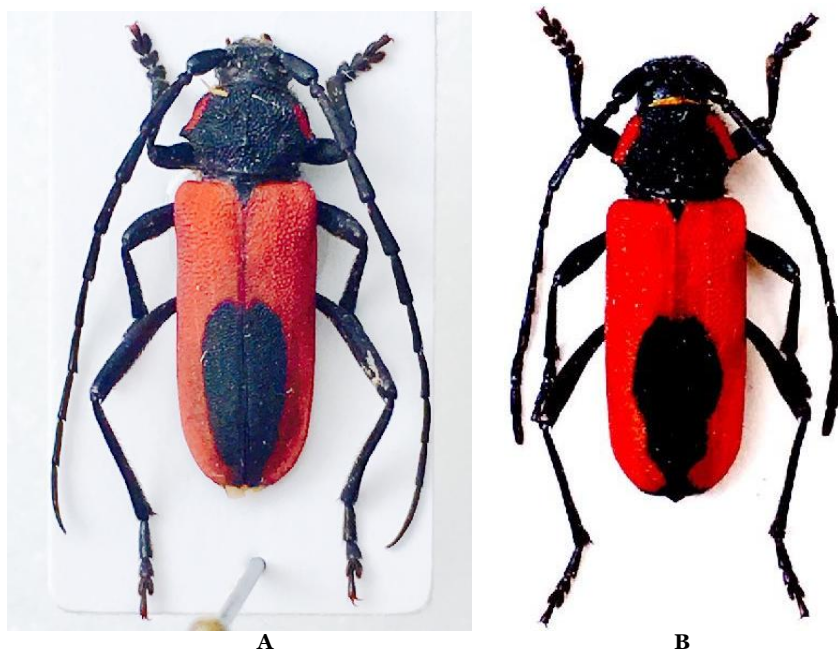


Figure 1. *Purpuricenus kaehleri corsicus* ssp. nov., A. Male, B. Female.



Figure 3. Corsica Island.