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*Julodis andreae* Marseul, 1865 - Turkey





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1. *Julodis armeniaca* Marseul, 1865, Turkey, Bingol Yayla, 20.VII.2007.  
2. *J. aristidis*, Tunisia, Tozeur, 8.IV.2004.  
3. *J. lucasi*, Tunisia, Gafsa, 11.IV.2006.  
Cover: *J. andreae*, Turkey, Adiyaman - Nemrut Dagi, 12.VI.2007 (photos-collection M. Gigli).

**The genus *Julodis* Eschscholtz, 1829 (Coleoptera Buprestidae).** The genus *Julodis* is the type genus of the Subfamily Julodinae Lacordaire, 1857. Species in this group are quite unusual Buprestidae for their general appearance, but especially for the larval biology. They don't live in wood or other plant tissues like other larvae of this family, but they dig into the soil and feed on the roots of various plants. In contrast to larvae of other Buprestidae, they are covered by long bristles directed obliquely backwards, helping in the movement in the ground, just like in the larvae of Coleoptera Cetoniidae. The genus *Julodis* is currently divided into two groups. One in South Africa (especially Cape Region) and Namibia, represented by 34 taxa (species and subspecies), and another group primarily Palaearctic, spread from Spain and North Africa to the steppes of Central Asia (up to the Chinese province of Gansu), with some species in the Oriental Region (Pakistan and India) and other taxa in Kenya (92 species and subspecies). Many species are extremely variable. The widespread polymorphism and the existence of many similar species has led to the description of many species, then fallen into synonymy, and probably others will follow the same fate, especially in certain groups of Palaearctic species. The European Fauna includes six species and subspecies, in the Iberian Peninsula, South France, Italy (Lampedusa Is.) and Balkans. *Julodis onopordi* s.l. is one of the most polymorphic species. It, according to actual conception, is widespread in the range of Mediterranean climate in Spain and southern France, and in North Africa, from Morocco to Sinai, with many different populations, some of which are considered subspecies. It is the only species in the genus in the Italian Fauna (Lampedusa Is., only). Another very variable species, spread over extensive territories, is *Julodis andreae* s.l., who lives in all the lands between Turkey, Iran and Azerbaijan. On the contrary, there are species very localized, limited to areas with well-defined characteristics of the soil and climatic conditions. Among these, three species live in the vast steppe and pre-desert around the large salt lakes of Northern Africa: *Julodis aristidis* Lucas, 1860, *Julodis chrysesthes* Chevrolat, 1860, *Julodis kerimi* Fairmaire, 1875. They are differently distributed over the territory in consequence of the type of soil, the presence of salt, gypsum, and its granulometry, of great importance for the needs of the larvae. Adults mostly feed on leaves and young twigs of shrubs and small trees, but also on herbaceous plants.

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