

18

www.biodiversityjournal.com

ISSN 2039-0394 (Print Edition)
ISSN 2039-0408 (Online Edition)

with the support of



Biodiversity Journal

MARCH 2015, 6 (1): 1-418

FOR NATURALISTIC RESEARCH
AND ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES



Carabus (Megodontus) imperialis Fischer, 1822 - Russia, SW Altay, Kalbinskiy range

The Genus *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 (Coleoptera Carabidae). *Carabus* Linnaeus, 1758 is a genus of beetles of the Family Carabidae. It contains about 100 subgenera and is highly differentiated in about 1000 species and a very large number of subspecies. Terrestrial and carnivorous *Carabus* are nocturnal predators that feed on snails, earthworms and caterpillars. The genus is widespread in the Palearctic Region but nearly all the species are native to the Palearctic. *Carabus* are adapted to live from the sea level up to 5000 m in the mountains, they can be easily found in all kinds of habitats except the deserts and the areas permanently covered by ice. Unable to fly they usually have reduced to rudimentary wings, a very few species occasionally have individuals capable of flying: *C. clatratus*, *C. granulatus* and, probably, *C. maurus*, which makes them excellent biogeographical indicators. *Carabus* are of medium to large size (12 mm to 65 mm) with developed mandibles and long and strong legs; the dorsal surface of the body frequently has a sculpture formed of three kinds of longitudinal parallel and symmetrical arranged striae and deep points; often the sculpture is very diversified and shows conspicuously morphological variations: totally erased, irregular, protruding ribs, with large and deep fovea, etc. Very often *Carabus* are colorful and of fascinating beauty. For these reasons they are so attractive and notable items for collections, in fact they have been collected and studied since, at least, 200 years. *Carabus* is one of the most deeply studied groups of Coleoptera, with a huge literature on their taxonomy, biology, phylogeny, ecology and biogeography. Nevertheless, the genus is still far to be completely known, in fact a number of new taxa are described every year especially from the most remote areas of Asia and many taxonomic problems are far to be solved.

Ivan Rapuzzi, via Cialla 47, 33040 Prepotto (Udine) Italy; email: info@ronchidicialla.it

Cover photo by A. Plutenko



1. *Carabus (Megodontus) schoenherri sajanus* Breuning, 1927 - Russia, Siberia, W Sajjan Mts., A. Plutenko.



2. *Carabus (Megodontus) leachi panzeri* Dejean, 1829 - Russia, SW Altay, Kalbinskiy range, A. Plutenko.



3. *Carabus (Limnocarabus) clatratus auraniensis* Müller, 1902 - Serbia, Vojvodina, Ruma, Sava river, I. Rapuzzi.