

Description of *Hylotrupes hoskoveci* n. sp. from Cyprus (Coleoptera Cerambycidae Hylotrupini)

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ABSTRACT

A new species of the genus *Hylotrupes* Audinet-Serville, 1834 (Coleoptera Cerambycidae Cerambycinae Hylotrupini) is described from Cyprus. *Hylotrupes hoskoveci* n. sp. was discovered among material collected in the Lemesos District and reared under laboratory conditions from branches of *Juglans regia* Linnaeus, 1753 (Juglandaceae). The genus *Hylotrupes* has hitherto been considered monotypic, with *H. bajulus* (Linnaeus, 1758) as its only representative. The new species is clearly distinguishable from *H. bajulus* by a combination of stable morphological characters, including a distinctly transverse pronotum with strongly expanded and sinuate lateral margins, deeper and denser pronotal punctation, narrower and more elongate pronotal callosities, broader elytra with coarse and confluent punctures forming a vermiculate sculpture, and more slender legs with less robust femoral clubs. Sexual dimorphism is evident in body size, antennal length, and the shape of the median pronotal callosity. The association with a broadleaf host plant (*Juglans regia*) represents an unusual biological trait within the genus and suggests a wider ecological amplitude for *Hylotrupes* than previously recognized. A detailed morphological description, differential diagnosis, and biological notes are provided.

KEY WORDS

Coleoptera; Cerambycidae; Hylotrupini; taxonomy; new species; Cyprus; host plant.

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INTRODUCTION

The genus *Hylotrupes* Audinet-Serville, 1834 (Coleoptera Cerambycidae) and has long been regarded as monotypic, containing only *H. bajulus* (Linnaeus, 1758). This species is widely distributed throughout the Palaearctic region and has been introduced worldwide, becoming a cosmopolitan pest of structural timber. Larval development typically occurs in dead or seasoned wood of coniferous trees, particularly species of *Picea*, *Abies*, and *Pinus*.

Although rare exceptions of development on non-coniferous hosts have been reported in North

Africa, the ecological association of *Hylotrupes* with conifers has been considered one of the defining biological traits of the genus.

During the examination of Cerambycidae material collected on the island of Cyprus by Jiří Kadlec, a series of specimens was found that clearly differed from *H. bajulus* in morphology and biology. Detailed study confirmed that these specimens represent a new species, which is described herein.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimens examined in this paper was col-

lected in 2023 in the Lemesos District, Cyprus, by Jiří Kadlec. Larvae were obtained from thin branches of *Juglans regia* Linnaeus, 1753 (Juglandaceae) and reared under laboratory conditions until adult emergence.

Specimens were examined using a Wild M3 stereomicroscope at magnifications of $\times 6$, $\times 16$, and $\times 40$. Photographs were taken with a Canon EOS 250D digital camera equipped with a Laowa 100 mm f/2.8 CA-Dreamer Macro 2 \times lens using focus-stacking techniques.

ACRONYMS. CPR: Pierpaolo Rapuzzi private collection, Prepotto, Udine, Italy. CJK: Jiří Kadlec private collection, Jindřichův Hradec, Czech Republic.

RESULTS

Systematics

Familia CERAMBYCIDAE Latreille, 1802
Subfamilia CERAMBYCINAE Latreille, 1802
tribus HYLOTRUPINI Rose, 1983
Genus *Hylotrupes* Audinet-Serville, 1834

Hylotrupes hoskoveci n. sp.

<https://zoobank.org/EA4A3BD3-45CA-4321-83E2-5D5E9284A45B>

MATERIAL EXAMINED. Holotype. CYPRUS • 1 spm male; Lemesos District, Arakapas environs; Apr. 2023; ex larva *Juglans regia*; J. Kadlec legit; CPR (Fig. 1). Paratype. CYPRUS • 1 spm female; same data as holotype; CJK (Fig. 2). The holotype and the paratype are temporarily housed in the author's collection (Prepotto, Udine, Italy) pending transfer to a recognized museum or public institution.

DESCRIPTION OF THE HOLOTYPE. Male. Medium-sized species of *Hylotrupes*, elongate and moderately robust, with parallel-sided elytra and a strongly transverse pronotum. Overall coloration dark, contrasted by pale pubescence on pronotum and elytra. Sexual dimorphism evident in size and some structural characters. Body length 16.0 mm; maximum width (at humeri) 5.5 mm. Coloration: integument predominantly deep black; pronotum, antennae, and legs partially brownish to reddish-brown; elytra black with indistinct ash-grey macu-

lae formed by patches of cinereous pubescence; ventral surface black, slightly shinier than dorsal surface.

Head short and narrow, distinctly narrower than pronotum; frons slightly convex. Median longitudinal groove absent. Vertex densely and deeply punctate; punctures round, well impressed, evenly distributed. Pubescence composed of short, semi-erect pale setae. Eyes large, coarsely faceted, moderately emarginate. Antennae 11-segmented, dark brown. In males reaching approximately one quarter of elytral length; in females about one third. Scape robust and coarsely punctate; antennomeres III–V slightly elongate, remaining segments gradually shortening apically.

Pronotum distinctly transverse (width/length ratio 1.45), with strongly expanded and sinuate lateral margins. Disc densely punctate, with three smooth, shiny callosities: two elongate lateral callosities and one median basal callosity. Median callosity narrow and elongate in males, broader and triangular in females. Pronotum covered with long, pale, semi-erect pubescence, absent on callosities.

Scutellum elliptical, moderately convex, densely and finely punctate, with short pale pubescence. Elytra elongate, parallel-sided, slightly tapering apically; apices rounded. Surface densely and irregularly punctate; punctures coarse and often confluent, producing a vermiculate sculpture. Two weak longitudinal carinae present on each elytron. Pubescence semi-erect, denser basally, with two very faint transverse bands of recumbent cinereous pubescence.

Legs slender. Femora clavate but less robust than in *H. bajulus*. Tibiae straight, finely punctate; tarsi with dense ventral pubescence.

VARIABILITY. Paratype female with body length 23 mm, maximum width (at humeri) 9 mm. Sexual dimorphism with female larger, with proportionally longer antennae and a broader median pronotal callosity, male more slender, with shorter antennae.

DISTRIBUTION AND BIOLOGY. Currently, this new species is known only from the type locality at Cyprus (Lemesos District, Arakapas environs).

Hylotrupes hoskoveci n. sp. was reared from thin branches of *Juglans regia* L. This host association is highly unusual for *Hylotrupes*, a genus otherwise almost exclusively associated with



Figure 1. *Hylotrupes hoskoveci* n. sp., holotype male, Cyprus, Lemesos District, Arakapas environs, IV.2023, ex larva *Juglans regia*, J. Kadlec legit. (CPR). Figure 1. *Hylotrupes hoskoveci* n. sp., paratype female, same data as holotype (CJK).

coniferous trees. The larvae excavate galleries beneath the bark of branches of *Juglans regia*, in a manner similar to *Ropalopus clavipes* (Fabricius, 1775). Pupation takes place within a cell prepared inside the wood. This condition differs markedly from that observed in *H. bajulus*, in which the larvae bore galleries deep within the wood, typically in large trunks.

ETYMOLOGY. This new species is dedicated to Michal Hoskovec (Prague, Czech Republic), a distinguished specialist in Cerambycidae and creator of the website “www.cerambyx.uochb.cz”, one of the most comprehensive online resources on the family for the Palearctic Region.

REMARKS. *Hylotrupes bajulus* has been described by Linnaeus (1758: “*Habitat in Europa; in America Septentrionali*”).

Numerous synonyms are attributed to this

species due to its wide geographical distribution and morphological variability (Danilevsky, 2026). The examined taxa, originally assigned to different genera and described from various regions across Europe, North America, Asia, and Australia, are now widely considered junior synonyms or infraspecific variants of *H. bajulus*, as below:

affinis Savenius, 1825: 63 (*Callidium*). Type locality: Finland.

caudatus DeGeer, 1775: 86 (*Cerambyx*). Type locality: USA.

linneianus Laicharting, 1784: 69 (*Callidium*). Type locality: Austria, Tyrol.

quadripunctata Geoffroy, 1785: 82 (*Leptura*). Type locality: France, Paris.

similis Marsham, 1802: 335 (*Cerambyx*). Type locality, UK, Britannia.

affinis Savenius, 1825: 63 (*Callidium*). Type locality: Finland, Karelia.

puellus A. Villa & G. B. Villa, 1833: 36 (*Callidium*). Type locality: Italy, Lombardia.

lividus Mulsant, 1839: 56 (*Hylotrupes bajulus* var.). Type locality, France.

bullatus Haldeman, 1847: 36 (*Hylotrupes bajulus* var.). Type locality: USA, New York.

asemoidaes Pascoe, 1863: 563 (*Callidium*). Type locality: Australia, Adelaide.

koziarowiczi Desbrochers des Loges, 1873: 429 (*Hylotrupes*). Type locality: France, Corse.

syriacus Théry, 1896: 110 (*Hylotrupes bajulus* var.). Type locality: Syrie.

inaequalis Casey, 1924: 233 (*Hylotrupes*). Type locality: Canada, Columbia.

latus Casey, 1924: 233 (*Hylotrupes*). Type locality: USA, New York.

nematocerus Casey, 1924: 234 (*Hylotrupes*). Type locality: USA, Indiana.

puncticollis Casey, 1924: 234 (*Hylotrupes*). Type locality: USA, Maryland.

Despite this extensive synonymy and its well-documented association with a range of coniferous hosts, no taxa referable to *H. bajulus* have been described from the island of Cyprus. Furthermore, there are no previous records in the literature indicating *Juglans regia* as a host plant for this species, suggesting that its occurrence on walnut represents either a previously overlooked ecological association or a novel host record.

Hylotrupes hoskoveci n. sp. differs from *H. bajulus* and related taxa by its more transverse pronotum with strongly sinuate margins, deeper and denser pronotal punctation, narrower and more elongate callosities, broader elytra with coarse vermiculate sculpture, and more slender legs with less robust femoral clubs.

CONCLUSIONS

The discovery of *H. hoskoveci* n. sp. represents a remarkable addition to the genus *Hylotrupes* and highlights the still incomplete knowledge of Cerambycidae diversity in the Eastern Mediterranean. Further investigations in Cyprus and surrounding regions are likely to reveal additional overlooked taxa.

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