

**A NEW SUBSPECIES OF *ROPALOPUS INSUBRICUS*  
GERMAR, 1824 (COLEOPTERA: CERAMBYCIDAE)  
FROM AIGUINES, FRANCE**

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**ABSTRACT:** A new subspecies, *Ropalopus insubricus gallicus* ssp. nov., comes from southeast France, from the range Aiguines at an altitude of 1000 m, location situated east of the lake Sainte-Croix. At the time being, it is a subspecies endemic to the French range Aiguines. Its specimens were compared with all members of the genus: *Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824, *Ropalopus ungaricus* Herbst, 1784 and *Ropalopus siculus* Stierlin, 1864.

**KEY WORDS:** Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae, *Ropalopus insubricus* new subspecies, France, Palaearctic region

***Ropalopus insubricus gallicus* ssp. nov.**

**Body:** Quite black including legs and antennae; only abdominal ventrites dark red. Body underside with very long and grey pubescence. Prosternum, mesosternum, metasternum and abdominal ventrites covered with erect setae. Punctuation of ventral surface very dense and fine.

**Elytra:** Metallic green; fresh green colour in the basal half, stepwise changing into rather violet-green tinge towards elytral apex. Elytra punctuation very coarse and dense in basal half, becoming stepwise finer towards elytral apices. Elytra very short in relation to body length, only 2.15 times as long as wide at humeri. Pubescence very sparse throughout elytral surface (elytra rather glabrous with exception of few erect setae on sides of humeri. Ends of elytra regularly arcuate, without any outward directed spine or process.

**Scutellum:** Not sharply triangular, with rather rounded apex, at least twice as wide at base as long.

**Head:** Very wide and short, relatively densely, evenly, flatly wrinkled-punctate; head vertex with a deep longitudinal furrow.

**Pronotum:** Distinctly transversal, arcuately dilated on sides in males, strongly edged angularly dilated in females, more strongly narrowed towards base. Moderately vaulted on its top surface, but without smooth area. Whole surface evenly punctate. Pronotum pubescence longer, but still very sparse on sides only.

**Antennae:** Black, not reaching to elytral apices in males; achieving  $\frac{3}{4}$  elytra length in females. First antennomere relatively more coarsely punctate, punctuation of remaining antennomeres finer and denser. Antennomeres 1 to 6 with long, semierect, black setae. Antennomeres 3 and 4 with rather short but distinct spines.

**Legs:** Black, with black, decumbent setae on femora and with long, erect setae on tibiae. Legs shorter and more robust compared to body dimensions. Basal metatarsomere of males as long as metatarsomeres 2 and 3 combined.

**Body size:** Males 17-18 mm, females 19-20 mm.

**Holotypus:** Male, France-Aiguines 2-5.7.2013, leg. J. Steinhofer (det. et. coll. J. Vartanis). Paratypus: 3 males, France- Aiguines 2-5.7.2013, leg. J. Steinhofer (det. et. coll. J. Vartanis), 1 male, 3 females, France- Aiguines 3-9.5.2017 (ex. larvae), leg. J. Steinhofer (det. et. coll. J. Steinhofer & J. Vartanis), 7 males, France-Aiguines 3-6.7.2017, leg. et. coll. J. Steinhofer.

**Development:** Most adult individuals were caught on the host plant *Acer* sp. Smaller number of individuals were reared (ex larvae) from wood of *Acer* sp.

**Differential diagnosis:** The new subspecies *Ropalopus insubricus gallicus* ssp. nov., exemplifies differences encountered in the group studied. It exerts very characteristic features different from those of the nominotypical form *Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824, thus justifying the definition of a new subspecies. Among taxa of the group, it belongs to smaller insects, where body lengths vary between 17 and 18 mm in males and between 19 and 20 mm in females, whereas in the nominotypical form, the body lengths are of 18 to 28 mm in males and 20- 30 mm in females.

Further important differences between the new subspecies described here and the nominotypical form are as follows: in the new subspecies, the males have distinctly shorter antennae, by far not reaching to the elytral apex; only antennomeres 3 and 4 bear observable spines; the pronotum surface is punctate throughout, without any distinct glossy area on its top; elytra are more metallic bright and shorter – only 2.15 times as long as wide at humeri; the ventral side of the body including prosternum, mesosternum, metasternum and abdominal ventrites is covered with very long, grey pubescence; the abdominal ventrites are dark red.

Contrastingly to these characteristics of the new subspecies, the nominotypical form *Ropalopus insubricus insubricus* Germar, 1824 is rather larger and more robust; the metallic shine of the elytra is less considerable, rather obsolete; male antennae are much longer, exceeding beyond the elytral apex by a number of antennomeres; antennomeres 3 to 9 are distinctly extended to produce spines; the ratio of the elytra length to the body length is larger, the elytra being 2.25 times longer than wide at humeri; the top part of the pronotum surface has a glossy, prevalently impunctate area; the body underside (prosternum, mesosternum, metasternum and an abdominal ventrites) bears very sparse and black pubescence; the abdominal ventrites are black.

**Etymology:** The infraspecific name of the new taxon *Ropalopus insubricus gallicus* ssp. nov. is based on the historical, ancient name Gallia, corresponding to the contemporary territory of France.

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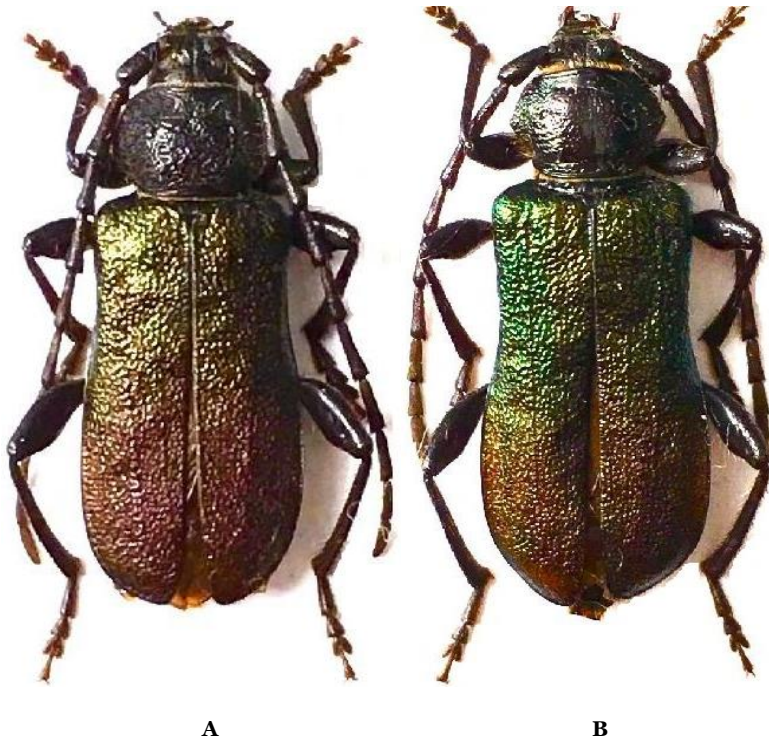


Figure 1. *Ropalopus insubricus gallicus* ssp. nov., A. Male, B. Female.