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**A new species of the genus *Morimus* Brullé, 1832  
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae) from Central Europe**

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**Key words:** Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Lamiinae, *Morimus*, new species, Slovakia.  
**Abstract:** *Morimus gabzdili*, **sp. n.** is described from Slovakia (Veľké Kapušany environs). It is similar to *M. asper asper* (Sulzer, 1776), but differs by longer thoracic spines, 4 elytral spots of velvety black pubescence are partly or totally devoid of granules, posterior elytral half with numerous wide spots without granulation.

Slovakian *Morimus* was well known to its collector Rudolf Gabzdil from long ago. I was informed about it by Petr Švácha (personal message, 2011). It was determined by several entomologists as paradoxally isolated population of *M. asper asper* (Sulzer, 1776). Though the area of *M. asper* is situated far west- and southwards from Slovakia. Recently I've received for the study a big series of specimens and identified the taxon as a new species. This species is a single *Morimus* in Slovakia. Several records of *M. a. funereus* Mulsant, 1863 for Slovakia (Sláma, 1998: 275) could be connected with that one species, or with imported specimens.

***Morimus gabzdili*, sp. n.**

Figs 1-5

**Type locality.** Slovakia, Veľké Kapušany environs, 48°31'9"N, 22°2'52"E, 106 m.

The new species looks externally like *M. asper asper* (Sulzer, 1776) - type locality: Italy [= *Lamia lugubris* Fabricius, 1793 - type locality: Italy], which is distributed far westwards in Italy and France. *M. gabzdili*, **sp. n.** has same blackish body color with indistinct pale pubescence, elytra without contrast black spots; elytral granulation is hardly visible, antennae rather long.

The neighbour *M. a. funereus* Mulsant, 1863 is distributed southwards in Hungary and eastwards in Ukrainian Carpathians and

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Moldavia (but absent in Slovakia). It has pale body color because of pale pubescence, 4 velvety black contrast elytral spots, very distinct elytral granulation and relatively short antennae. The area of transitional populations between *M. a. asper* and *M. a. funereus* was shown by Simonetta (1989) in north-east Italy, Albania and northern Greece. No atypical populations of *M. a. funereus* are known from Hungary, Romania, Ukraine or Moldavia. *M. gabzdili*, **sp. n.** can not be considered inside *M. asper*, as transitional populations absent in between areas of two taxa.

Antennae in big males can be about 2 times longer than body, in small males antennae can surpass elytral apices by 5 apical joints only being about 1.5 times longer than body; antennae in females from about as long as body or surpassing elytral apices by 2 apical joints; 1<sup>st</sup> antennal joint is about as long as 5<sup>th</sup> in males or about as 4<sup>th</sup> in females; 4<sup>th</sup> joint is rather longer than 5<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> joint is the longest, sometimes in males about 2 times longer than 1<sup>st</sup>; prothorax is relatively short, in males about as long as basal width, or about 1.1 times longer than basal width; in males of Italian *M. a. asper* prothorax is often 1.2 times longer than basal width; in females of *M. gabzdili* **sp. n.** prothorax about as long as basal width; lateral thoracic spines much longer than in Italian *M. a. asper* and strongly acute; scutellum is usually strongly transverse and more or less emarginated posteriorly, while in Italian *M. a. asper* it is normally semicircular; elytra in males 1.6-1.8 times longer than basal width, in females - 1.6-1.9 times; elytral granulation sparser than in Italian *M. a. asper*, 4 elytral spots of velvety black pubescence are partly or totally devoid of granules, while in Italian *M. a. asper* the density of granulation is more or less regular (anteriorly bigger) all along elytra; posterior elytral half with numerous wide spots without granulation, which are absent in Italian *M. a. asper*; in Caucasian (the rank of Crimean population is not quite clear) *M. verecundus* (Faldermann, 1836) the pubescence of 4 elytral spots can be replaced by dense white setae; each spot can be totally covered by dense granules and indistinct, or with scattered granules, or without any and so very distinct; posterior elytral half in *M. verecundus* can be with or without numerous areas devoid of granules; body length in males: 20.5-38.0 mm, body width (at elytral middle): 7.5-13.0 mm; body length in females: 20.6-35.0 mm; body width: 8.0-14.0 mm.

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**Materials.** Holotype, male, Slovakia, about 3.5 km SW Veľké Kapušany, 48°31'9"N, 22°2'52"E, 106m, 24.04-15.05.2014, R. Gabzdil leg. - author's collection; 39 paratypes with same label; 11 males and 12 females in author's collection; 10 males and 6 females in collection of R. Gabzdil (Slovakia, Michalovce).

*M. a. asper* (author's collection): 1 male, Italy, Bologna, Casalecchio di Reno, 17.07.1982, I. Zappi leg.; 2 males, 1 female, same locality, 1-4.06.1983, I. Zappi leg.; 1 male, 1 female, Italy, Romagna, 20.6.1980; 2 males, 2 females, same locality, 15.05.1980, G. Zappi leg.; 2 males, Italy, Elba Is., 4.6.1977 and 3.6.1978, F. Adlbauer leg.

**Distribution.** East Slovakia; the taxon was observed by R. Gabzdil (personal message, 2014) not only in the type locality (Veľké Kapušany env., 48°31'9"N, 22°2'52"E, 106m,), but also about 2km SE Pavlovce nad Úhom (119m, 48°35'22"N, 22°5'32"E) and about 3 km SE Beša (106m, 48°30'38"N, 21°58'48"E).

The eastern most locality of *M. gabzdili* **sp. n.** is situated in about 5km westwards Ukrainian border, so the penetration of the taxon to Ukraine is very possible.

It seems to be a single *Morinus* species in Slovakia. According to R. Gabzdil (personal message, 2014) no recent evidences of *M. a. funereus* in Slovakia exist (neither in Czechia). All localities of "*Morinus funereus*" published by Sláma (1998: 275) for Slovakia were based on old untrustworthy data or on specimens introduced from Hungary with wood, or on wrong identifications of *M. gabzdili* **sp. n.**

**Biology.** As it was written to me by R. Gabzdil: "Throughout the day specimens were hidden under fallen branches of trees, I saw them sitting or crawling on trunks and stumps of oaks and poplars or briskly running around in the undergrowth of the interior of riparian forest and on nearby meadows. They were active also in the early evening, when I've found them in the groups on lying tree trunks quite often not far from holes used for getting out. I've picked out living larva from oak".

**Dedication.** It is my pleasure to dedicate the new species to Rudolf Gabzdil - Slovak coleopterologist, who discovered the new taxon and collected all known specimens.

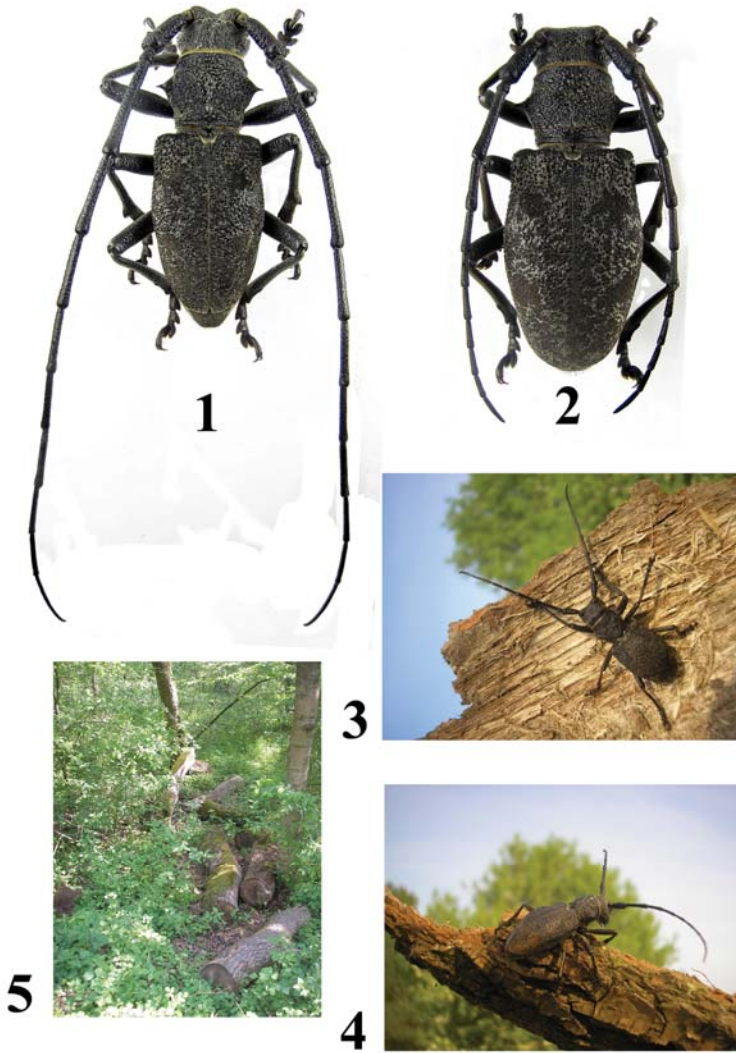
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providing me with the specimens for description and for rather valuable geographical and biological information. My sincere thanks to Gario and Iuri Zappi who sent me their specimens of *Morimus asper asper*.

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**Figs 1-5.** *Morimus gabzdili*, **sp. n.**: 1 - holotype, male (author's photo); 2 - paratype, female (author's photo); 3 - male in nature (photo by R. Gabzdil); 4 - female in nature (photo by R. Gabzdil); 5 - biotop of *M. gabzdili*, **sp. n.** near Velké Kapušany (photo by R. Gabzdil).

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