



## A new species of the genus *Gasterocercus* (Coleoptera, Curculionidae, Cryptorhynchinae) from the Iberian Peninsula, with notes on the ecology of the genus

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### Abstract

*Gasterocercus hispanicus*, a new species of the genus *Gasterocercus* Laporte & Brullé, 1828 is described from the Iberian Peninsula. Until now, *Gasterocercus depressirostris* (Fabricius, 1793) was the only European species of the genus, which includes 9 species distributed in the Palearctic, Oriental and Australian realms and lives on dead wood or in dying trees. We summarise the known biological information for both European species, providing new data on the ecology of the genus.

**Key words:** saproxylic beetles, Mediterranean forest, central Spain, conservation, *Gasterocercus hispanicus*, new species

### Introduction

The genus *Gasterocercus* Laporte & Brullé, 1828 belongs to the tribe Gasterocercini Zherikhin, 1991 of the subfamily Cryptorhynchinae Schoenherr, 1825 (Coleoptera, Curculionidae) (Alonso-Zarazaga & Lyal 1999). It includes 9 species distributed in the Palearctic, Oriental and (doubtfully) the Australian regions. In the Palearctic region, the best known species is *G. depressirostris* (Fabricius, 1793) (figs. 3–4), a European endemite recorded from France, Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Austria, Italy, Hungary, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, Ukraine and South Russia and doubtfully present in Switzerland (Bernardelli *et al.* 2003, Stüben 2004, 2005). In France, its southernmost record is in Fôret de Veyrac (Haute-Vienne) (Hoffmann 1958), some 860 km distant from the new species here described, to which it seems to be closely related. Results show that European species of *Gasterocercus* could be indicators of the saproxylic quality of forests due to their biological requirements.

### Material and methods

**Study area.** The new species was collected in Cabañeros National Park in central Spain (Ciudad Real province) (39° 23' 47" N; 4° 29' 14" W). The park consists of about 40 000 ha of well-preserved