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The beetle fauna of Germany by Christoph Benisch © 2007-2010

## Short manual for the module „Compare photos“

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## 1. Introduction

When determining similar species, the user may like to compare high-resolution photos of those species side-by-side for a direct comparison of relevant characteristics.

This task can be either accomplished “manually” by searching the required photos on the internet and combining them in a standard graphics package.

Alternatively, the user can use the new [kerbtier.de](http://kerbtier.de) **comparison module** to display up to six species side-by-side, zoom in and out and display details to compare the relevant characteristics.



In this way characteristics relevant for determination, e.g. habitus, coloration, puncture, etc. can be easily compared. The differences are particularly striking when displayed side-by-side. The use of the module is intuitive; it shall be introduced in this document using three red *Aphodius* species as an illustrative example.

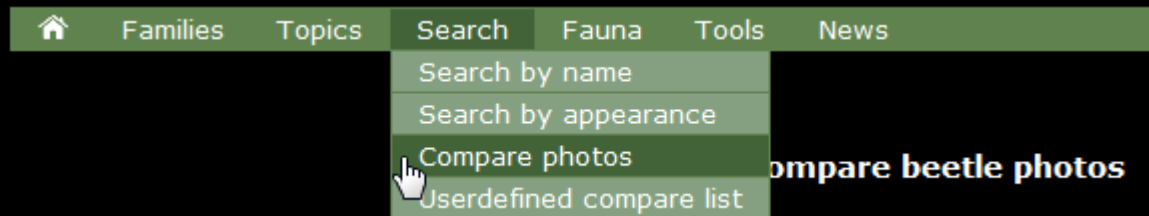


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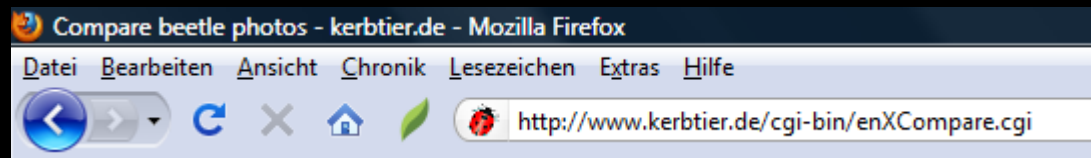
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## 2. Accessing the photo comparison module

The module can be found on the website <http://www.kerbtier.de> in the menu “Search” and can be accessed by clicking the menu entry „Compare photos“:



Alternatively, the page can be directly accessed by using this link: <http://www.kerbtier.de/cgi-bin/enXCompare.cgi>





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### 3.1 User interface in mode „thumbnail“

The user interface offers two basic modes, which can be selected under the option „Preview mode“ 7 :  
While in mode „thumbnail“ all matching species are displayed in thumbnail overview T .

The screenshot shows the user interface of the website. At the top, there is a green header bar with the text "Search and select:" followed by a search input field (1), a "Search" button (2), and a "Preferences: Save" button (3). Below this is a large dark area for displaying results, with a circular icon containing the letter 'T' (4) indicating the current view. To the right of this area is a "Display in slot:" section with a grid of letters A, B, C, D, E, F. At the bottom, there are four control panels: "Sort mode:" with radio buttons for "alphabetical" (5) and "systematic"; "Gender:" with radio buttons for male (6) and female; "Preview mode:" with radio buttons for "thumbnails" (7) and "list"; and "Slots for comparison:" with radio buttons for different grid sizes (8). At the very bottom, there is a "Photo comparison:" section (9).



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### 3.2 User interface in mode „list“

While in mode „list“ all matching species are displayed as text-based list **L**. For the species selected in the list an additional single Thumbnail **P** is displayed as preview.

The screenshot shows the user interface of the website. At the top, a green bar contains the text "Search and select:". Below this, there is a search bar with a "Search" button and a "Preferences" section with a "Save" button. A large white area on the left is labeled with a red circle containing the letter "L", representing the list of species. To the right of this area is a dark grey area labeled with a red circle containing the letter "P", representing the preview thumbnail. Further right is a "Display in slot:" section with a grid of six buttons labeled A, B, C, D, E, and F. At the bottom, there are several control sections: "Sort mode:" with radio buttons for "alphabetical" (selected) and "systematic"; "Gender:" with radio buttons for male and female; "Preview mode:" with radio buttons for "thumbnails" and "list" (selected); "Slots for comparison:" with radio buttons for different grid configurations; and a "Photo comparison:" section at the very bottom.

1 Search and select: 2 Search word: Search 3 Preferences: Save

L

P

4 Display in slot: A B C D E F

5 Sort mode: alphabetical systematic 6 Gender: ♂ ♀ 7 Preview mode: thumbnails list 8 Slots for comparison: [grid icons] 9 Photo comparison:



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### 3.3 Controls of the user interface (available in both modes)

The controls ① - ⑨ marked with green color are available in both modes:

- ① Enter search word: species name or fragment, at least 3 characters. If no species name is entered, the module tries to load the userdefined compare list (same is valid at the start of the module).
- ② Start search by clicking the button „Search“.
- ③ Save user preferences as cookie (cookies must be enabled in the browser).
- ④ Selection of a slot for the display of a high-resolution photo of the selected species.
- ⑤ Sort mode of the thumbnail overview or list in alphabetic or systematic order.
- ⑥ Select photo of male or female (if available)
- ⑦ Selection of the available modes „thumbnail“ or „list“.
- ⑧ Number and arrangement of the photo slots.
- ⑨ Slots for the photo comparison.



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### 3.4 Mode-specific controls of the user interface specific

The control **T** marked in yellow is only available in the mode „thumbnail“:

- T** Thumbnail overview of the matching species. Clicking a thumbnail selects the respective species.

The controls **L** and **P** marked in red are only available in the mode „list“:

- L** Text list of matching species. Clicking an entry selects the respective species.
- P** Preview thumbnail of the species selected in the list.



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## 4.1 Search species name and display thumbnail

In mode „thumbnail“:

By entering the genus or species name or fragments thereof into the input field **1** and clicking the search button **2** the database is searched for matching species and photos

In mode „list“:

In mode „thumbnail“:

Clicking a thumbnails in the overview **T** selects the species. The label of the selected species will be displayed in green.

In mode „list“:

Clicking an entry in the list **L** selects the clicked species and displays a thumbnail of the species in the preview **P**.



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## 4.2 Choosing number and arrangement of the slots for photo comparison

Search and select:

Search word:  Search Preferences:

4 Display in slot:

Aphodius distinctus	Aphodius erraticus	Aphodius fasciatus	Aphodius fimetarius	Aphodius fossor	Aphodius granarius	Aphodius haemorrhoidalis

Sort mode:  alphabetical  systematic

Gender:  ♂  ♀

Preview mode:  thumbnails  list

8 Slots for comparison:

9 Photo comparison:

The number and arrangement of the slots for photo comparison 9 can be adjusted by the user from 2 x 1 (two photos) to 3 x 2 (6 photos) by clicking the corresponding radio button 8.

By clicking the buttons “A” to “F” in the field 4, a high-resolution photo of the previewed species will be displayed in the selected slot.

When changing the number and arrangement of the slots, those pictures already displayed will be preserved except if the number of slots is smaller than before. In this case, the photos exceeding the new number of slots will be lost together with the zoom settings made by the user.



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## 5 Zoom & move

The photos displayed can be zoomed in, zoomed out and moved within their slots to display the interesting areas side by side as good as possible.

Move zoomed photo with the left mouse button pressed (like dragging)



Zoom out

Automatically fit to slot size

Zoom in





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## 6 Revisions

- 01.01.2011 Start of the new version (v.2) of the comparison module on kerbtier.de
- 09.01.2011 Start of the further improved version v.3
- 05.03.2011 Minor changes to reflect the new userdefined compare list
- 20.03.2011 Selection of gender-specific photos (if available)
- 12.05.2011 Bugfix: Display error for species with certain specific names removed