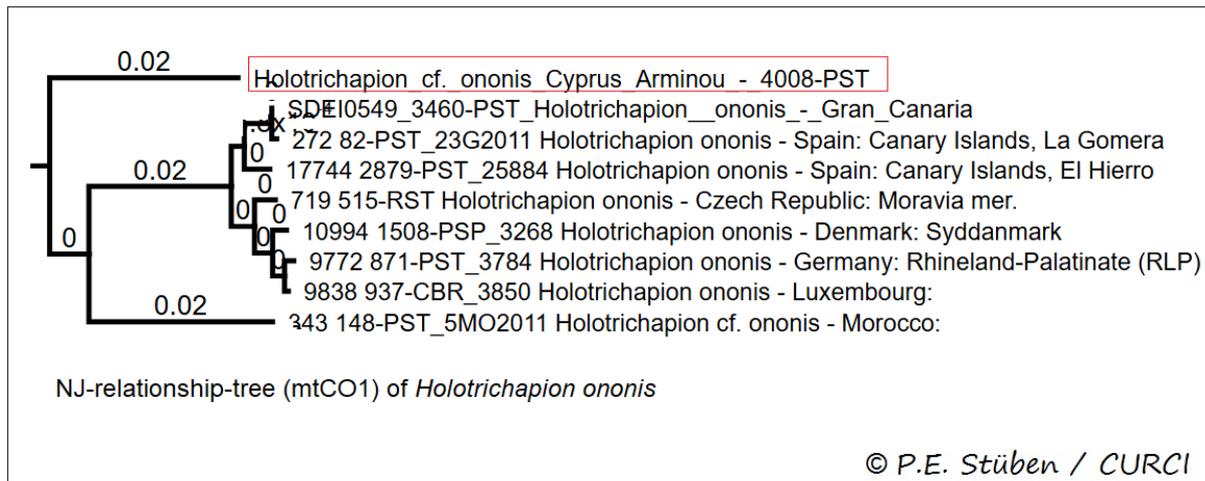


## *Holotrichapion cf. ononis* on Cyprus

– A molecular clue as a wake-up call to the morphologist



Only molecular analysis can draw our attention to cryptic species or species with only slight morphological differences. For example, in comparison with our Central European specimens, the rostrum of the specimens from Cyprus appears shorter when viewed from above and much more curved immediately behind the base when viewed from the side (see illustration below). Both - the molecular and morphological suspicions - should be taken as an opportunity to study the case (a new species or subspecies) more carefully.

While *Holotrichapion umbrinum* (Woll. , 1864) from Gran Canaria was already synonymized with *H. ononis* (Kirby, 1808) by myself years ago on the basis of molecular and morphological studies as well as the type material (designation of a lectotype), more detailed investigations are still pending as to whether the specimens from Morocco that I examined molecularly can be equated with *H. saturnium* (Normand, 1937). There seems to be some evidence in favor of this!

Peter E. Stüben, May 2024



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*Holotrichapion ononis ononis* (Kirby, 1808)

Cyprus: Foinikaria

2 mm



*Holotrichapion ononis* Kirby, 1808

Cyprus: Foinikaria, 1808

2 mm