



COMPARATIVE SKELETAL RESEARCH OF SPARROWHAWK (ACCIPITER NISUS) AND COLLARED DOVES (STREPTOPELIA DECAOCTO)

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Abstract:

The aim of the research was to identify the main morphological differences of the skeleton. The study was carried out on the bones of three female Accipiter and eight Streptopelia of both sexes.

◦ Introduction

We chose to analyze the skeletal elements of the two species: the sparrowhawk (Accipiter nisus) and the collared doves (Streptopelia decaocto), similar in size, weight and both very good fliers.

In order to identify the morphological similarities but especially the differences that arise as a result of being positioned at different levels of the food chain, the former is a predator and the second, often its prey, is a peaceful granivore.

◦ Material and method

The study material was represented by specimens from three female Accipiter nisus specimens from the discipline's collection and eight specimens of Streptopelia decaocto of both sexes, collected from cynegetic areas in Buzău County.

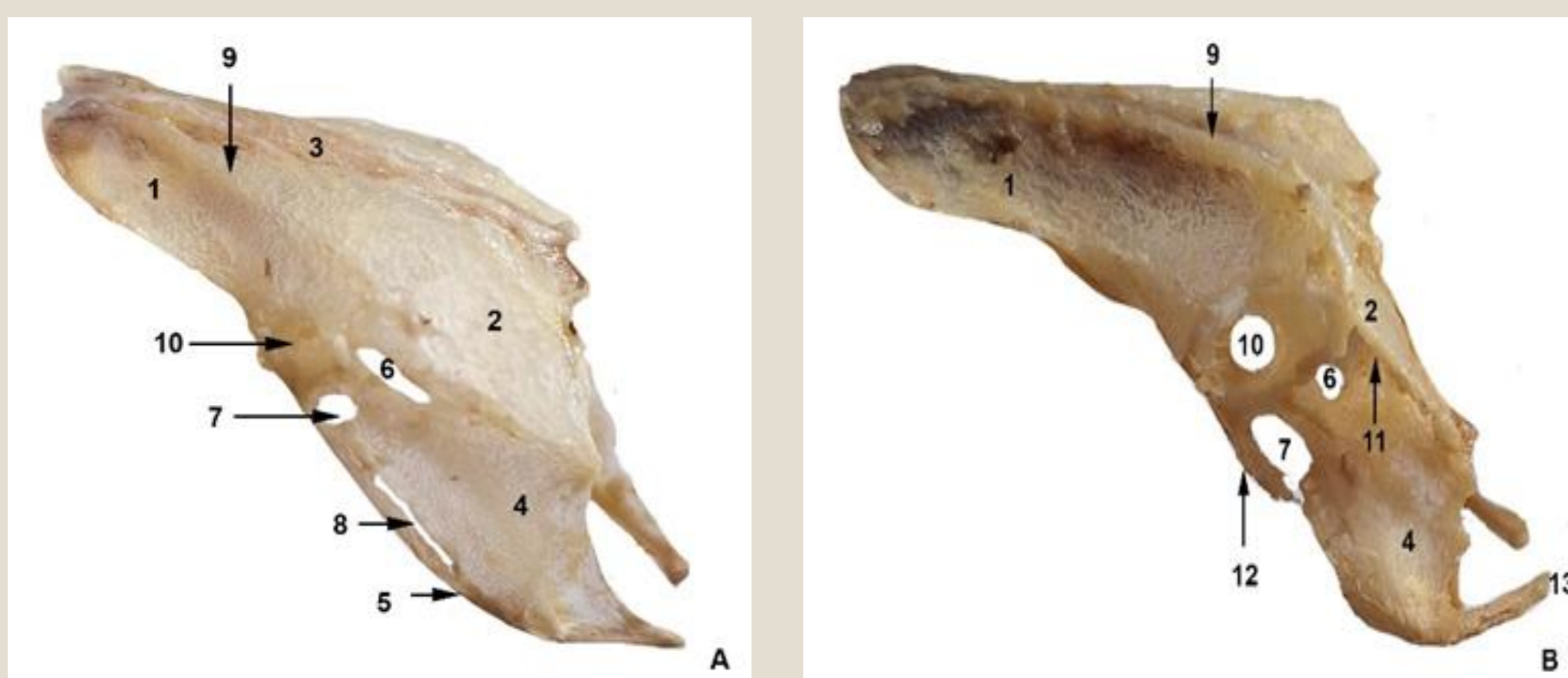


Fig. 1. Lateral aspect of the pelvis in Streptopelia (A) and Accipiter (B) (original)

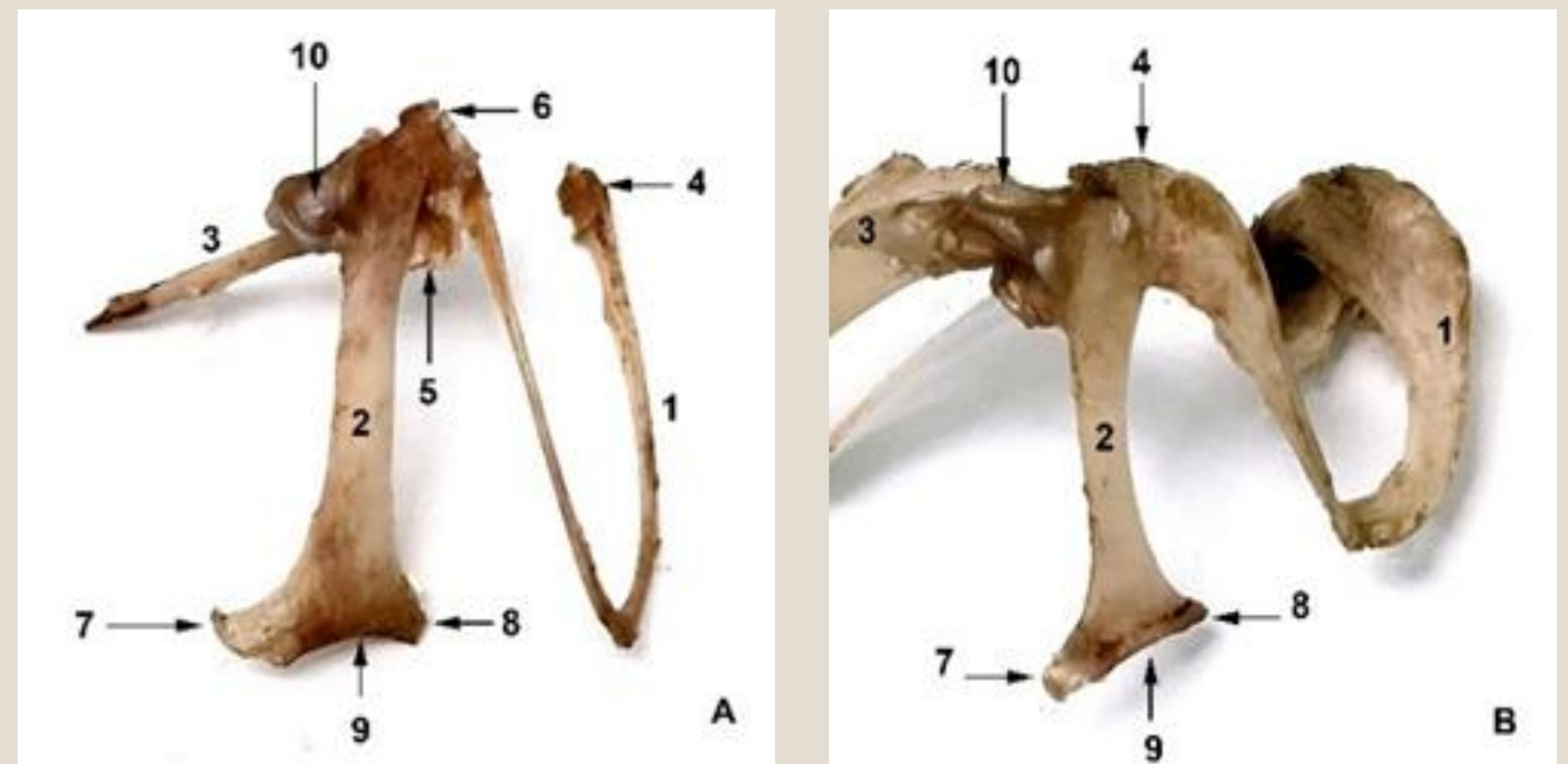


Fig. 2. Bones of the thoracic girdle in Streptopelia (A) and Accipiter (B)-cranio-lateral view (original)

◦ Results and discussions

Morphometric and conformational analysis of some skeletal components revealed significant differences between the two closely related species in terms of height and body weight, with the mass of the sparrowhawk being only 8% greater than that of the collared doves.

◦ Conclusions

It has been found that the particularities presented by the sternum, the pelvis and the limb bones are the most indisputable when it is necessary to differentiate the bones of the two species or to appreciate certain functional adaptations of the skeleton