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Notes on some West Palearctic Staphylinini, with description of a new species from Spain (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylininae)

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Abstract

Nomenclatural changes in West Palearctic Staphylinini, particularly Central European species, are presented. One new species is described: *Tasgius hispanus* (Spain). New synonymies: *Philonthus nimbicola* FAUVEL, 1874 (= *P. montivagoides* COIFFAIT, 1963, = *P. obirensis* LOHSE, 1988); *P. pyrenaeus* MÄRKEL & KIESENWETTER, 1848 (= *P. parafrigidus* COIFFAIT, 1963); *P. varians* PAYKULL, 1789 (= *P. couloni* DRUGMAND, 1987); *P. jurgans* TOTTENHAM, 1937 (= *P. derennei* DRUGMAND, 1987); *P. viridipennis* FAUVEL, 1875 (= *P. diversiceps* BERNHAUER, 1901); *Gabrius robustus* SMETANA, 1953 (= *G. noei* COIFFAIT, 1966). In addition, 19 nomina dubia described by GISTEL (1857) are synonymized with common European species. *Ocypus brunnipes* ssp. *alpicola* ERICHSON, 1840 is raised to species level. The aedeagi of most species treated, the female tergites X of four species of the *Philonthus varians* group, and the head and pronotum of three species of *Tasgius* STEPHENS, 1829 are illustrated.

Key words: Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, Staphylinini, new species, new synonymies, West Palearctic, faunistics, taxonomy, zoogeography.

Introduction

The preparation of the Philonthina and Staphylinina chapters for the new edition of volume 4 of “Die Käfer Mitteleuropas”, resulted in a considerable number of necessary taxonomic changes. It became evident that many of the short-comings of the existing version of this popular identification tool (LOHSE 1964) have been the result of uncritically adopting facts from older literature and, to a lesser extent, hasty preparation of the book without studying types or larger material to correctly interpret variability. This paper takes care of most of these changes. In addition, some other W-Palearctic taxa are treated as well and, as a side product, a new species of *Tasgius* STEPHENS, 1829 is described from Spain.

In addition, numerous dubious names introduced by GISTEL (1857) are synonymized herein.

Abbreviations

CFeM	Coll. B. Feldmann, Münster
CHo	Coll. E. Holzer, Anger
CSB	Coll. M. Schülke, Berlin
HUB	Museum der Alexander-Humboldt-Universität, Berlin (M. Uhlig, J. Frisch)
IRSNB	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelle, Bruxelles (Y. Gerard)
MHNG	Museum d'Histoire naturelle, Genève (G. Cuccodoro)
MHNL	Museum d'Histoire Naturelle, Lyon (V. Marengo)
NMP	Narodni Museum, Praha (J. Hájek)
NMW	Naturhistorisches Museum Wien
ZML	Zoological Museum, Lund (R. Danielsson)
ZMUC	Zoological Museum Museum, University of Copenhagen (A.Y. Solodovnikov)

Subtribe Philonthina

Philonthus montivagus group

The *montivagus* species group is quite well delimited. However, there have been constant problems at the species level (mostly with the montane and alpine members) since decades, particularly since COIFFAIT (1963, 1967) described several new species based on superficial external and aedeagal characters. The confusion has been further enhanced when LOHSE (1988) described *P. obirensis*. Both, Coiffait and Lohse based their conclusions on the study of very limited material, not recognizing the huge variability potential of the respective species. In the following, the most problematic species group members are briefly discussed (*Philonthus aerosus* KIESENWETTER, 1851 and *P. laevicollis* LACORDAIRE, 1835 do not pose any problems so far). Aedeagus illustrations are not provided here, because 1) numerous illustrations would be necessary to depict the variability, 2) some problems are still pending a solution, and 3) a comprehensive revision of the species group is in progress.

Philonthus montivagus HEER, 1839

This species is probably distributed from the Pyrenees to the Carpathians, but the delimitation of the species remains highly problematic (see *P. mareki* and *P. speculum* further below). *Philonthus montivagus* has been characterized by the presence of distinct microsculpture on the fore body. However, this character turned out as highly variable and also the aedeagal characters rather are confusing than helpful.

Philonthus vesubiensis COIFFAIT, 1967

This species was separated from *P. montivagus* because of an additional puncture close to the hind most puncture of the dorsal row. Additional punctures on the pronotum (both dorsal row and sublateral) can be found in quite a number of other *Philonthus* species. However, the specimens I have seen so far are unusually large, so a final decision has to wait until the revision of the species group is accomplished.

Philonthus mareki COIFFAIT, 1967

This species has been characterized by the lack of microsculpture on the forebody. It was considered to be endemic to the Tatra Mountains. However, most specimens identified as *P. montivagus* from the eastern slopes of the Alps also have a shiny fore body, almost totally lacking microsculpture. Further west, shiny specimens become increasingly rarer, but I have even seen specimens from Switzerland without microsculpture. In addition, the short and broad paramere, which was deemed characteristic of *P. mareki*, also occurs in other parts of the Alps.

Philonthus speculum LOKAY, 1919

This species was described from the Carpathians in Romania. Unfortunately, the type material seems to be lost. According to the description, it seems quite certain that *P. speculum* and *P. mareki* are identical. The question whether *P. speculum* (with *P. mareki* being a possible synonym) and *P. montivagus* are just one very variable species remains to be solved. The situation is further complicated by the fact that the material already studied yielded two different aedeagus sizes with no overlap. This difference, however, does not clearly coincide with absence or presence of microsculpture on the fore body. It is to be hoped that the study of numerous specimens from many different localities will yield a plausible solution.

Philonthus nimbicola* FAUVEL, 1874Philonthus montivagoides* COIFFAIT, 1963 **syn.n.***Philonthus obirensis* LOHSE, 1988 **syn.n.***Quedius jureceki* RAMBOUSEK, 1913¹

Contrary to *P. montivagus*, the situation in *P. nimbicola* is quite clear. The character of the additional sublateral puncture on the pronotum (or lack of), which lead both Coiffait and Lohse to describe *P. montivagoides* and *P. obirensis*, respectively, is a variable character. Although several, partly remarkably, different aedeagus shapes can be observed, these do not coincide with the lack or presence of this sublateral pronotal puncture. In addition, both authors based their descriptions on the study of only a few specimens. Therefore, the two species are to be regarded as synonyms of *P. nimbicola*.

***Philonthus spinipes* SHARP, 1874**

This expansive species, which meanwhile is recorded from the entire Palearctic Region appears in two different forms. In specimens from Japan, the elytra have a black ground pubescence, while specimens from the Asian continent and Europe have a yellow ground pubescence. Normally, this would clearly indicate at least a subspecific difference (the available name would be *kabardensis* BOLOV & KRYZHANOWSKIY, 1969). However, I have also seen a specimen from Iraq (Mossul) with black elytral ground pubescence. Although this specimen might have been carried there by man, I refrain from formally validating the subspecific name.

***Philonthus frigidus* MÄRKEL & KIESENWETTER, 1848**

As in the species of the *montivagus* group, this alpine species, too, shows a conspicuous variability in external and aedeagal characters. Among external characters, the most affected ones are size, metallic lustre and elytral punctuation.

Aedeagus as in Figs. 1–2.

Philonthus pyrenaeus* KIESENWETTER, 1850Philonthus parafrigidus* COIFFAIT, 1963 **syn.n.**

This West European species shows the same variability trend as *P. frigidus*. It differs from *P. frigidus* in the larger size and denser punctuation of the elytra, and in the larger aedeagus (Figs. 3–4). I have not studied the typical material, but specimens from the Pyrenees and from the Alpes Maritimes are identical. Therefore, I have no doubt that *P. parafrigidus* is a synonym of *P. pyrenaeus*.

Philonthus varians* PAYKULL, 1789Philonthus couloui* DRUGMAND, 1987 **syn.n.**

TYPE MATERIAL: *P. couloui*: **Holotype** ♂ (by monotypy): “Forest [Province de Brabant, Belgium], 4.11.1948, leg. Fagel” (IRSNB).

The holotype of *P. couloui* is slightly teneral and the aedeagus is slightly deformed, but there is no doubt about the synonymy.

¹ Earlier, this species was regarded as a synonym of *P. montivagus* (SCHEERPELTZ, 1933), but COIFFAIT (1974) treated it as a synonym of *P. nimbicola*. The original description implies that the opinion of Scheerpeltz most likely was correct.

Philonthus jurgans* TOTTENHAM, 1937Philonthus derennei* DRUGMAND, 1987 **syn.n.**TYPE MATERIAL: *P. derennei*: **Holotype** ♂ (by monotypy): “Boitsfort, 4.XI.65, E. Derenne” (IRSNB).

The aedeagus of the holotype of *Philonthus derennei* obviously got lost and it is somewhat difficult to interpret the rather poor illustration in the original description. However, the external appearance (broad head, immaculate elytra, shape and setation of male tergite X) provide sufficient evidence that it is conspecific with *P. jurgans*.

***Philonthus varians* group (females)**

The females of the *P. varians* group can be easily identified by the tergite X. KANGAS (1979) had already illustrated the female tergites X, but not taken into account the variability in shape and partly also setation. This resulted in the description of a new species (*P. isthmus* KANGAS, 1979), which was subsequently synonymized with *P. confinis* A. STRAND, 1941 (SCHUH et al. 1992), stating that it was unclear which species Kangas' illustration of the female tergite X of *P. confinis* represented. Meanwhile, after having dissected numerous specimens of the four problematic Central European species (*P. confinis*, *P. jurgans*, *P. pseudovarians*, *P. varians*), it has become obvious that both of Kangas' illustrations (*P. confinis* and *P. isthmus*) refer to *P. confinis*. The following illustrations show two common variants each of the four above mentioned species: *Philonthus varians* (Figs. 5–6), *P. pseudovarians* (Figs. 7–8), *P. jurgans* (Figs. 9–10), *P. confinis* (Figs. 11–12).

Philonthus parvicornis* GRAVENHORST, 1802Philonthus agilis* GRAVENHORST, 1806

A few years ago, my Swedish colleague Bengt Andersson contacted me because he ran into problems with the identification of some *Philonthus* specimens. These specimens were very similar to *P. parvicornis* but differed in a somewhat narrower head. The fact that these specimens were collected together with “typical” *P. parvicornis* gave rise to the suspicion it might be a different species.

Philonthus parvicornis, however, is quite variable, both in external and genital characters (size, shape of median lobe, number of peg setae). Although it cannot be excluded with certainty that it represents a complex of different species. A separation is not possible at the moment, because the external variability does not coincide with the genital variability.

Another problem connected with this species is the type series. It contains six syntypes (HUB), which, according to the curators, are a mixture of the types series of *P. agilis* and *P. parvicornis*. Right now, *P. agilis* is treated as a synonym of *P. parvicornis*, but two females of this series are so much larger than the rest that I am quite sure they belong to a different species. At the moment this does not pose any problem but should the necessity arise to split *P. parvicornis* into more species, then lectotypes have to be designated for both taxa.

Aedeagus as in Figs. 13–16.

Philonthus viridipennis* FAUVEL, 1875Philonthus diversiceps* BERNHAUER, 1901 **syn.n.***Philonthus armeniacus* BERNHAUER, 1901*Philonthus oebalus* TOTTENHAM, 1953

TYPE MATERIAL: *P. viridipennis*: **Lectotype** ♂: “Tibériade [= Lake Tiberias, Israel], Syrie \ viridipennis Fvl. \ R.I.Sc. N.B. 17.479 Coll. et det. A Fauvel \ Ex Typis” (IRSNB). – **Paralectotypes**: 1 ex. with same label data as

lectotype; 1 ex.: “Bahr el Houleh Syrie [= Lake Hula, Israel]” (both IRSNB). There is another specimen from “Aresch Caucase”, which does not belong to the type series.

Philonthus viridipennis is a very variable species, especially in the shape of the aedeagus. I had studied the type series of that species many years ago and having been rather inexperienced at that time, I trusted the aedeagal differences illustrated by COIFFAIT (1974). Later, after having collected and studied numerous specimens of “*P. diversiceps*” from many different places, doubts arose about the generally accepted differences between *P. diversiceps* and *P. viridipennis*. Eventually, after having re-studied the type series of *P. viridipennis*, I came to the conclusion that they are identical. Since Fauvel has not specified a precise number of types, and due to the known fact that type material of Fauvel might also be stored in other collections, it was necessary to designate a lectotype to avoid future confusion.

Aedeagus as in Figs. 17–18. Between these two forms an almost gapless transition of different shapes may be encountered.

Philonthus micantoides BENICK & LOHSE, 1956

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂ (by monotypy): “Tesperhude, Oberelbe, 14.4.48, Dr. Benick \ Coll. G. Benick \ micantoides Benick et Lohse, Typus ♂” (MHNG).

Two more specimens with identical locality labels bearing type labels (Typus ♀, Cotypus), as well as one specimen from Lübeck (Cotypus), have no type status as they are not mentioned in the original description (all MHNG).

The series of *P. micantoides* (including the holotype) in the Lohse collection (preserved at MHNG) consisted of no less than four different species: *P. micans* (GRAVENHORST, 1802), *P. micantoides*, *P. palustris* BRISOUT, 1859, and even one *P. quisquiliarius* (GYLLENHAL, 1810).

The species is virtually indistinguishable from *P. micans* by external characters. The fact that even the authors of *P. micantoides* failed to provide the only reliable genital character to separate it from *P. micans*, lead to numerous misidentifications in various collections.

The aedeagus of *P. micantoides* is highly variable in width of median lobe, width and furcation angle of parameral lobes. A similar variability may be observed in *P. micans* and other species with a similar aedeagus type (e.g. *P. rubripennis* STEPHENS, 1832). The aedeagus of *P. micantoides*, however, clearly differs from that of *P. micans* when viewed in lateral aspect: while the apical portion in *P. micans* is rather straight with acutely pointed top (Fig. 19b), in *P. micantoides* the top is quite distinctly bent away from the face bearing the paramere, slightly widened and more or less obtusely rounded (Figs. 20b, 21b). In ventral view, the apical portion of the median lobe in *P. micans* is longer, with narrower apex (Fig. 19a), while the apical portion in *P. micantoides* is shorter, with broader and in most cases more distinctly truncate apex (Figs. 20a, 21a). The figures show characteristic specimens, but as mentioned above, the aedeagus shape in ventral view is subject to a remarkable variability.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED:

G E R M A N Y: Mark Brandenburg, env. Gosen/Berlin, NSG Wernsdorfer See, sifted from heaps of *Phragmites*, 17.III.1984, leg. Schülke (CSB); same locality as before, 11.II.1984, on wet meadow, treaded from grass tussocks (CSB); Insel Hiddensee, NSG Dünenheide, 26.VI.1991, leg. Schülke & Grünberg (CSB).

R U S S I A: Novosibirskaya Oblast: env. of Novosibirsk, shores of Obskovo reservoir, below Nanyusami, 27.IV.1997, leg. Dudko [labels in Cyrillic] (ZMUC); 20 km N Tjumeni, env. of Novotarmanskiy, 8.IV.1995, leg. Dudko [labels in Cyrillic] (ZMUC).

DISTRIBUTION: This species has been recorded from Austria, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Latvia, Lithuania and the South European Territory of Russia. While the misidentification of *P. palustris* was obviously the reason for the wrong record of *P. micantoides* from France, all other records (except Austria) would seem

plausible. However, a re-examination of all available specimens is necessary for confirmation. From the material I have examined so far, only Germany and Russia are confirmed, which prompts an Euro-Siberian distribution similar to that of *Gabrius dieckmanni* SMETANA, 1957.

***Bisnius longicollis* BERNHAUER, 1908**

Bisnius intrudens (TOTTENHAM, 1949)

Bisnius longicollis is an East Siberian species. The types of *B. intrudens* are from the Beskid Mountains but have never been found there again. During my work on the *Philonthus rotundicollis* species group (SCHILLHAMMER 2003), I found a lot of East Asian specimens in the Tottenham collection which have most obviously been mislabeled. I am pretty sure the same lapsus happened with *B. intrudens*. Therefore, this species is no longer regarded as occurring in Central Europe.

***Gabrius sexualis* SMETANA, 1954**

This species is known from Italy (as far north as South Tyrol), southeastern France and North Africa. A specimen, misidentified as “*G. pennatus*”, in the Scheerpeltz collection (“Cloghane April 1909 \ Anglia N.H. Joy”) sheds a completely new light on the distribution of that species (the only Cloghane I could find lies in Ireland). In fact, this species might be more widely distributed and all *G. breviventer* should be revised accordingly.

Aedeagus as in Figs. 22–23. The best character to separate both species is the lateral view of the aedeagus: *G. breviventer* (Fig. 24) is characteristically widened subapically (like the tip of a crochet-needle) while the same portion in *G. sexualis* is not or hardly widened and just slightly bent dorsad.

***Gabrius sphagnicola* SJÖBERG, 1950**

Gabrius robustus sensu SCHUH et al. (1992)

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂: “Dlr. By sn., Th. Palm” (ZML).

The record of *G. robustus* SMETANA, 1953 from Austria (SCHUH et al. 1992) was based on a misidentification. The respective specimens were sent to A. Smetana for confirmation, not knowing that the type of *G. robustus* was not in his collection. The type of *G. sphagnicola* was never studied by Smetana and he had “verified” the specimens out of memory. The error was unveiled when B. Andersson sent me a specimen of *G. sphagnicola* from Sweden and it turned out to be identical with the Austrian specimens of *G. robustus* recorded from Austria by SCHUH et al. (1992).

Meanwhile, *G. sphagnicola* has been collected in Austria again: forest swamp at the border between Styria and Carinthia, leg. L. Neuhäuser-Happe (no further details available).

Aedeagus as in Fig. 25. For differential notes see below (*G. robustus*).

***Gabrius robustus* SMETANA, 1953**

Gabrius noei COIFFAIT, 1966 **syn.n.**

TYPE MATERIAL: **Holotype** ♂: “Kistac, Maced. \ HOLOTYPE ♂ *Gabrius robustus* m. det. Smetana 1952 \ Mus. Nat. Pragae Inv. 18796” (NMP).

As a consequence of the above mentioned misidentification, it was necessary to study the type of *G. robustus* in order to verify that it is different from *G. sphagnicola*. In the course of this study, two more specimens of that species were found in Turkey which drew my attention towards *G.*

noei (described from Mt. Ararat in eastern Turkey). The latter species is undoubtedly a synonym of *G. robustus*. The distribution of that species, which was originally described from Macedonia, is thus extended eastwards considerably.

Aedeagus as in Fig. 26.

The aedeagi of *G. sphagnicola*, *G. robustus* and *G. toxotes* JOY, 1913 might be mixed up when viewed in ventral aspect. While *G. toxotes* may be separated from the other two species by the smaller aedeagus (Fig. 27) with a distinctly shorter apical portion of the median lobe, the aedeagi of *G. sphagnicola* and *G. robustus* clearly differ by the shape of the dilated subapical piece of the median lobe, particularly in lateral view.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED:

T U R K E Y: BURSA: Ulu dağ, 25.VIII.1986, leg. B. Feldmann (CFeM); ERZURUM: 35–40 km NW Tortum, Mescit Dağları, 2600 m, 19.VI.1998, leg. A. Solodovnikov (NMW).

***Gabrius tokatensis* SMETANA, 1977**

Gabrius amasiensis COIFFAIT, 1980

This species has been found again in Turkey only once in recent years (ASSING 2006). The latest finding represents a new record for Iraq and substantially extends the known distribution southeastwards.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED:

I R A Q: N Mossul, Al-Amadiya, 1200 m, 28.IV.2007, leg. C. Reuter (CFeM).

Subtribe Staphylinina

***Ocypus (Matidus) alpicola* ERICHSON, 1840 stat.n.**

Ocypus brunnipes ssp. *alpicola* auct.

TYPE MATERIAL: **Syntypes**: 1 ex.: “5992 \ Hist.-Coll. (Coleoptera) Nr. 5992 *Ocypus alpicola* Erichs. Carinth. Schmidt Zool. Mus. Berlin \ *alpicola* Er. Carinth. Schmidt \ SYNTYPUS *Ocypus alpicola* Erichson, 1840 labelled MNHUB 2008” [the specimen is lacking the head and shows signs of dermestid damage]; 1 ex.: same as before but without historical labels [the specimen is lacking the right antenna].

This species was until now treated as southern subspecies of *O. brunnipes* (FABRICIUS, 1781). Due to the sympatric occurrence in eastern and southern Austria, the subspecific concept becomes questionable and the taxon is therefore raised to species level.

It may be easily separated from *O. brunnipes* as follows (ratios and characters in brackets refer to *O. brunnipes*): head more distinctly transverse, 1.3–1.4 times as wide as long (1.2), at least 0.95 times as wide as pronotum (< 0.9); eyes smaller, 0.75–0.80 times as long as tempora (0.85–0.95); head and pronotum with much less dense, double punctation, larger punctures separated by at least two puncture diameters (in *O. brunnipes* the larger punctures are separated by about one puncture diameter and the secondary micro-punctation is very indistinct).

Aedeagus as in Figs. 28–29.

ADDITIONAL MATERIAL EXAMINED (Central Europe only):

A U S T R I A: STYRIA: “A, ST, Bez. Graz-U., Großsülz, Murauen, 315 \ 10-08-2005, Barberfalle, leg. Erwin Holzer” (CHO); “A, ST, Bez. Graz-U., Murberg, Murauen, 310 \ 21-06-2005, Barberfalle, leg. Erwin Holzer” (CHO); “A, ST, Bez. Graz-U., Enzelsdorf, Murauen, 315 \ 14.05. - 04-06-20045, Bf., Auwald, leg. Erwin Holzer” (CHO); “A, ST, Bez. Graz-U., Fernitz, Murauen, 320 \ 14-07-2005, Barberfalle, leg. Erwin Holzer” (CHO, NMW); CARINTHIA: Klagenfurt (NMW); VIENNA: “Wien, Lobau, 27.12.1982, leg. A. Dostal” (NMW).

G E R M A N Y: “coll. Walzl \ Bavaria *Staphylinus bruneipes*” (NMW).

DISTRIBUTION: In addition to the Central European material listed above, I have seen specimens from North Italy (Trentino, Lombardia – where it is obviously not rare), Croatia (without any further indication) and Greece (“Parnass”). The record from Germany requires confirmation.

Ocypus brevipennis (HEER, 1839)

Ocypus brevipennis ssp. *pseudoalpestris* (MÜLLER, 1926) **syn.n.**

The description of the subspecies was based on larger specimens. The study of numerous specimens from several localities showed that the size considerably varies within populations.

Tasgius minax (MULSANT & REY, 1861)

TYPE MATERIAL: **Lectotype** ♂ (by present designation): “[blank, tiny round white label] \ minax R.” (MHNL). – **Paralectotype** ♀: with same blank, tiny round label as lectotype and with additional label “♀” (MHNL). This specimen is a teneral *T. melanarius*.

The rarity of this species and the fact that many specimens identified as *T. minax* or described as subspecific taxa of that species had eventually turned out as *T. melanarius* (HEER, 1839), raised some doubts about its validity. However, the study of the type series, as well as additional material, revealed that *T. minax* is a distinct species. Externally, in addition to the reddish legs in mature specimens, it mainly differs from *T. melanarius* and *T. winkleri* (BERNHAEUER, 1906) by the much less densely punctate head and pronotum (Fig. 33: *T. melanarius*; Fig. 34: *T. minax*), the parallel-sided pronotum, and shorter antennal segments. The aedeagus (Fig. 31) is very similar to that of *T. melanarius* (Fig. 30) but distinctly smaller and with a different shape, especially in lateral view. Paramere more distinctly twisted to the left.

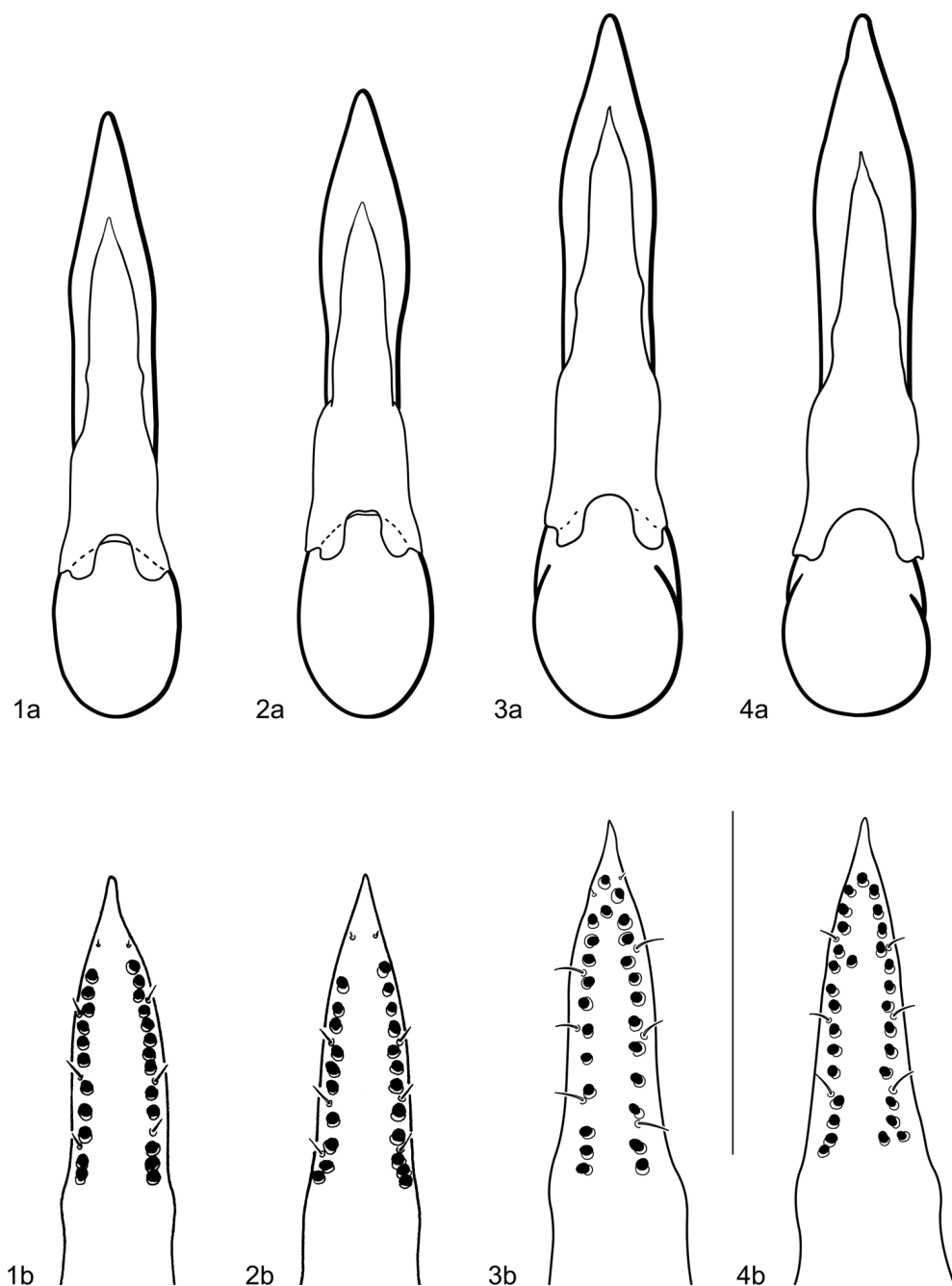
DISTRIBUTION: *Tasgius minax* is a West European species and is recorded only from Portugal, Spain, France, the Benelux countries and West Germany. However, most of these records, particularly those based on females, should be revised due to the frequent misinterpretation of that species.

Tasgius hispanicus sp.n.

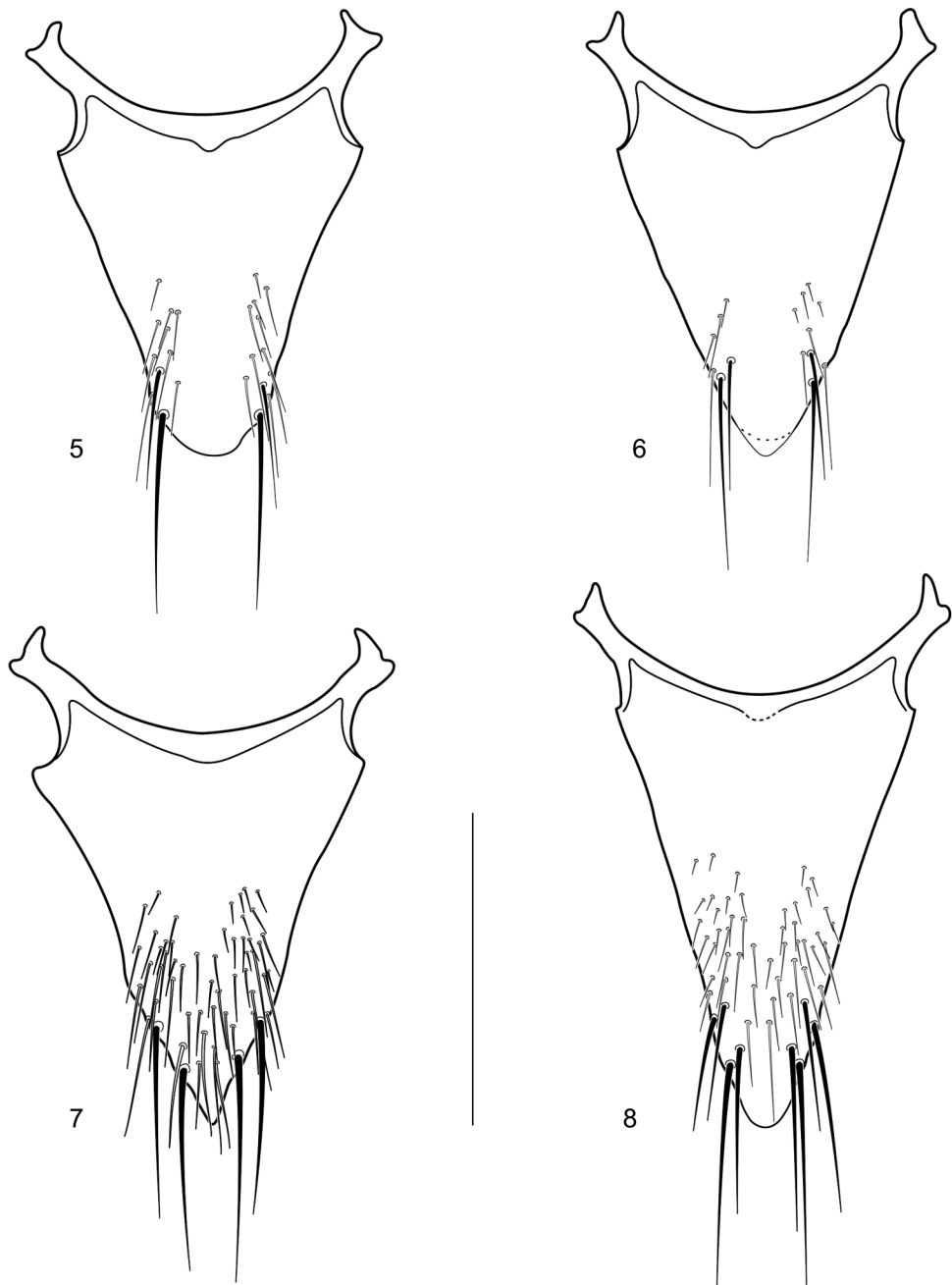
Holotype ♂: “SPAIN: Lugo, O Rial, 450 m, Serra do Mirador, 29TPH4284, 3.VI.2003, J.P. Valcárcel” (CSB). – **Paratypes:** 1 ♂: “SPAIN: Galicia, Lugo, Ferreira de Incio, bosque de castaneos, 1.III.2000, J.P. Valcárcel” (NMW); 1 ♀: “SPAIN: Lugo, Vallonga, 550 m, 22.VIII.2005, leg J.P. Valcárcel” (CSB).

DESCRIPTION: 10.8–12.0 mm long (4.9–5.2 mm, abdomen excluded). – Black, head and pronotum very shiny; appendages dark brown to black brown, last antennal segment, front tibia and tarsi variably rufo-testaceous.

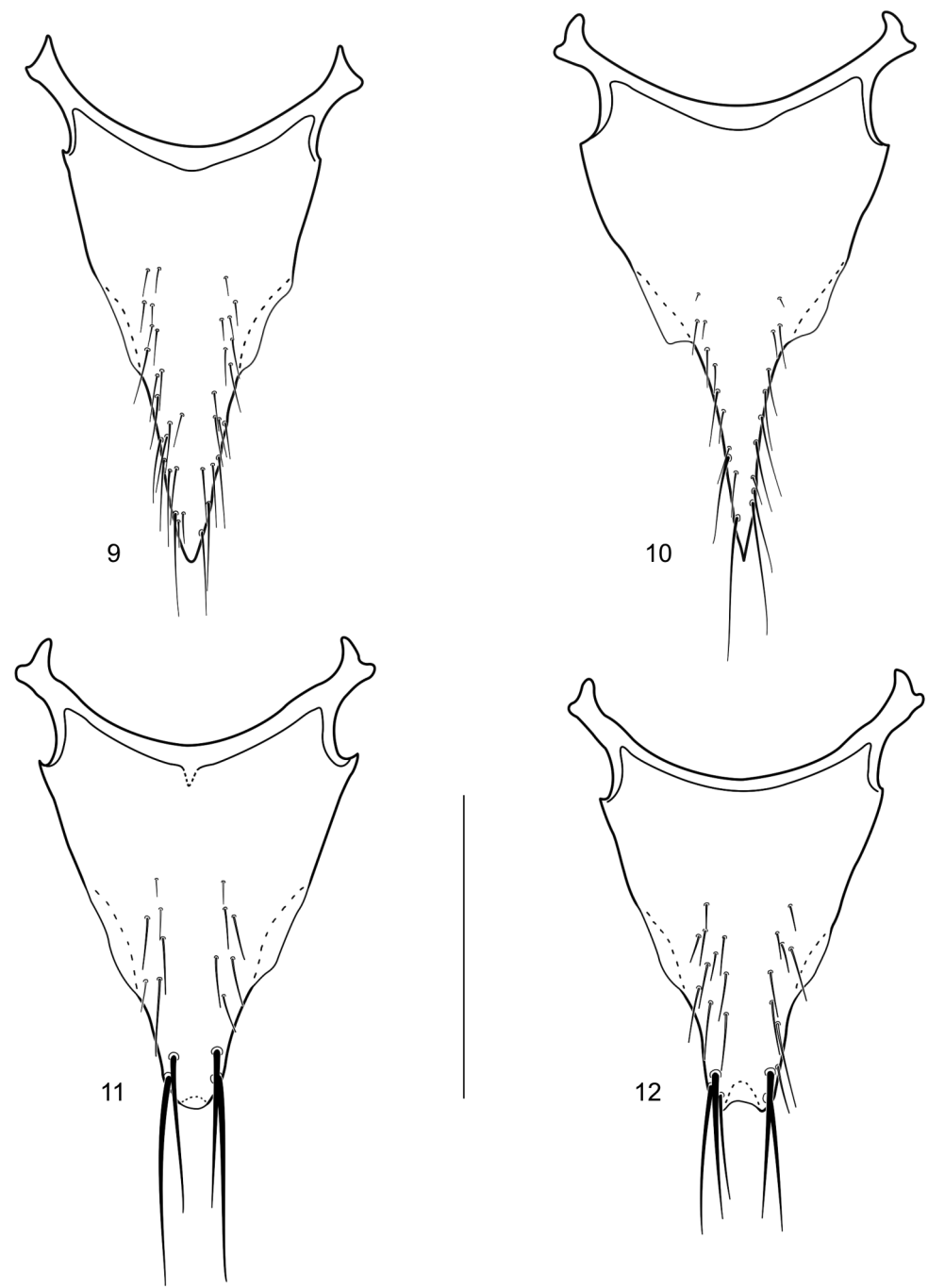
Head (Fig. 35a) rectangular, 1.28–1.33 as wide as long; sparingly punctate, punctures separated by 1–3 puncture diameters in anterior half, with large, irregular impunctate portion on vertex, tempora rather densely punctate; eyes longer than tempora (1.05–1.16 times in males, 1.22 in female); antennae very slender, segments very short (males: segments 4–6 about as long as wide, 8–10 weakly transverse; females: segments 4–5 inconspicuously oblong, 8–10 about as long as wide); pronotum (Fig. 35b) subparallel-sided, 1.13–1.14 times as long as wide; rather sparingly punctate with narrow impunctate midline; punctures separated by at least a puncture diameter in medial half, in anterior half sometimes even with small specular patches close to midline, lateral half more densely punctate; elytra densely punctate and opaque due to rugulose microsculpture between punctures.



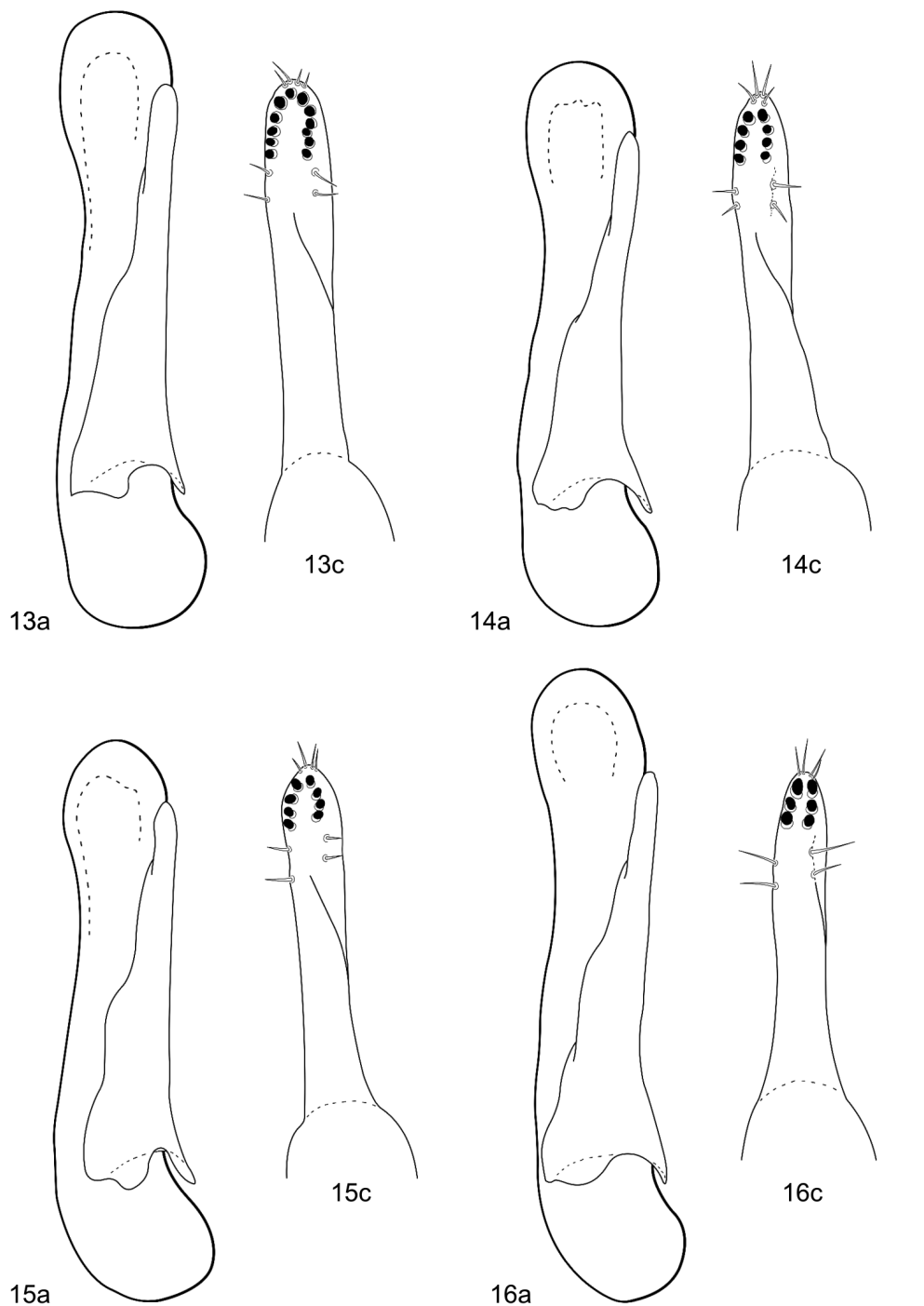
Figs. 1–4: Aedeagi of 1–2) *Philonthus frigidus*, 3–4) *P. pyrenaeus*; a) ventral view, c) paramere; scale bar: 0.5 mm (a), 0.25 mm (c).



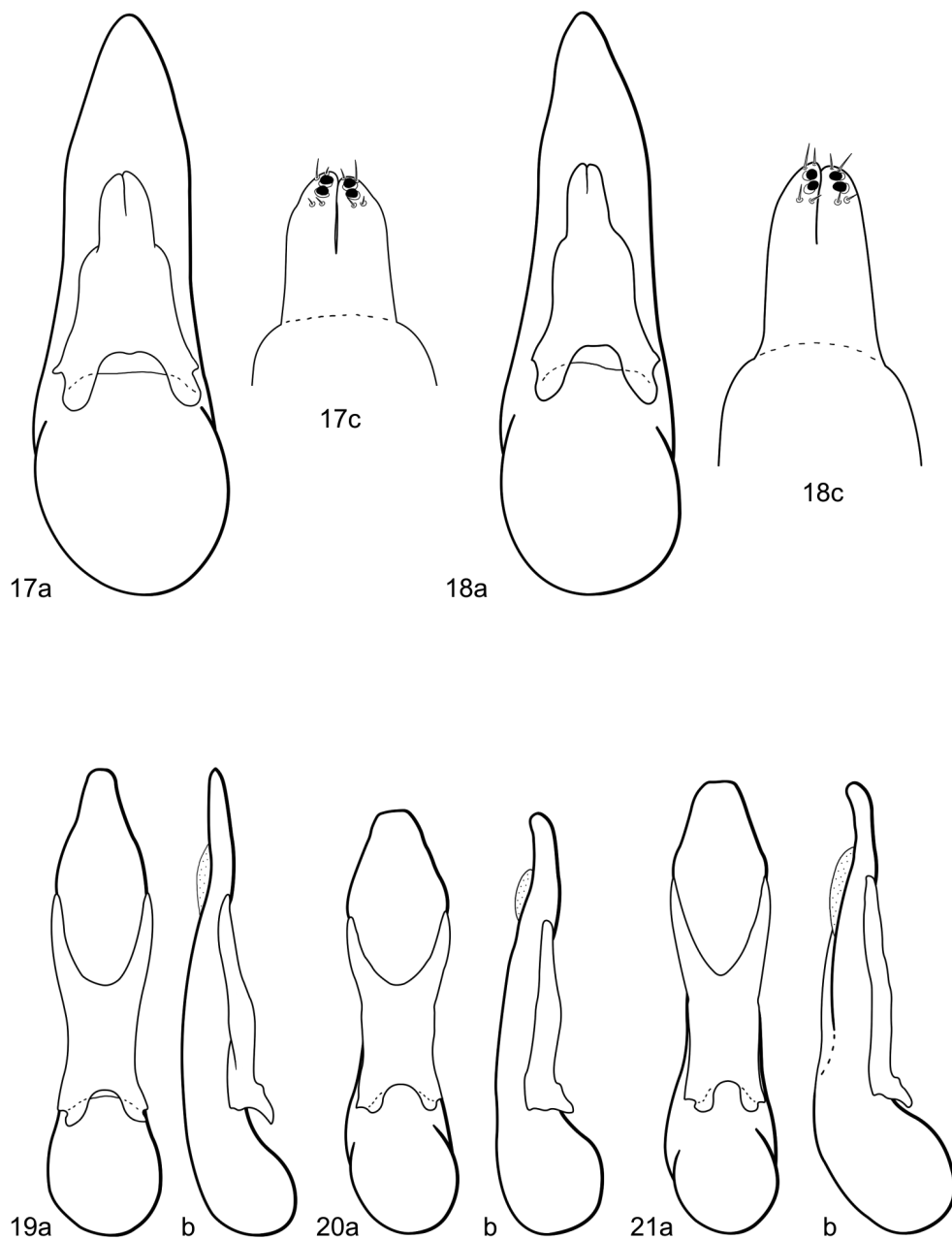
Figs. 5–8: Female tergites X of 5–6) *Philonthus varians*, 7–8) *P. pseudovarians*; scale bar: 0.5 mm.



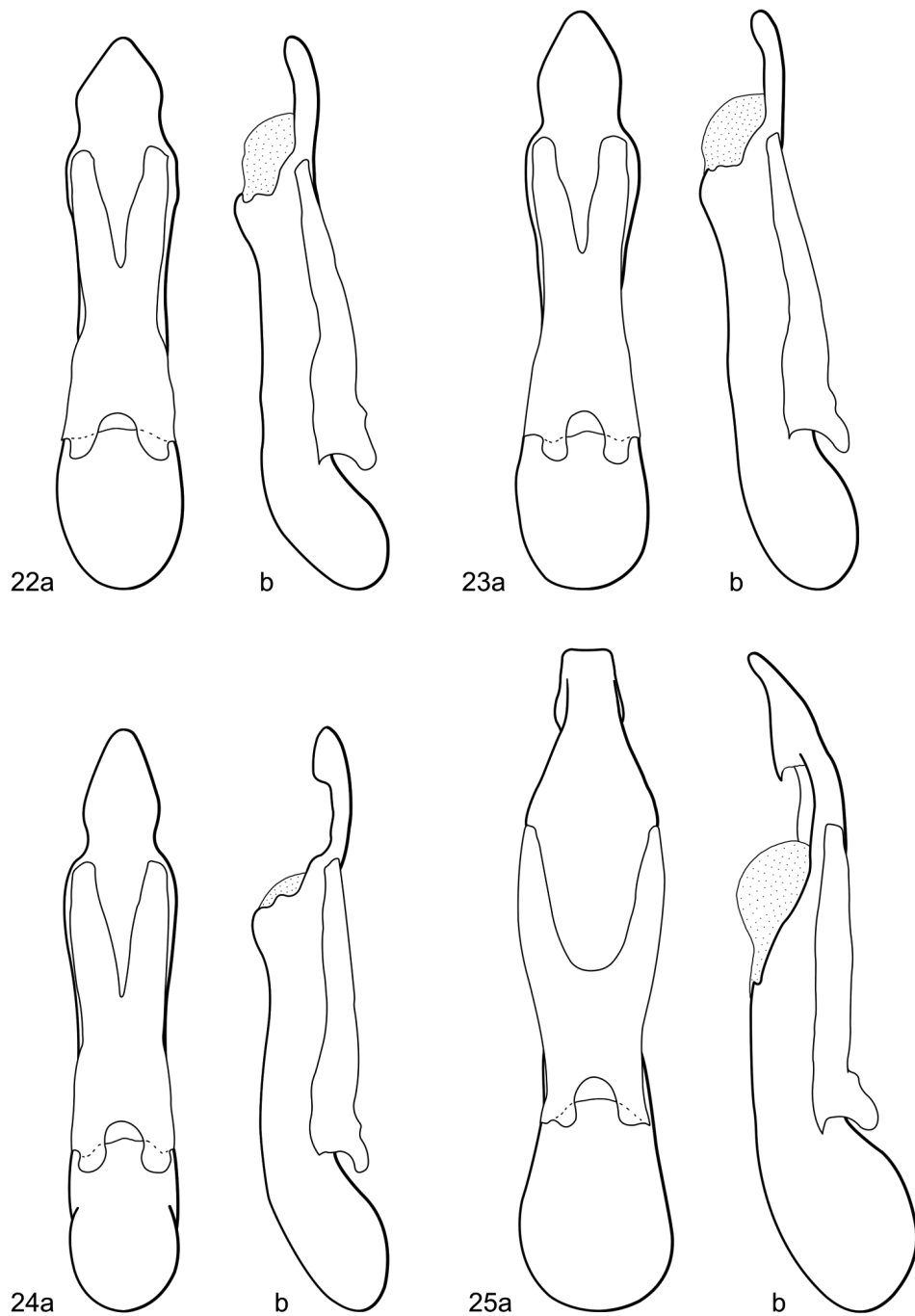
Figs. 9–12: Female tergites X of 9–10) *Philonthus jurgans*, 11–12) *P. confinis*; scale bar: 0.5 mm.



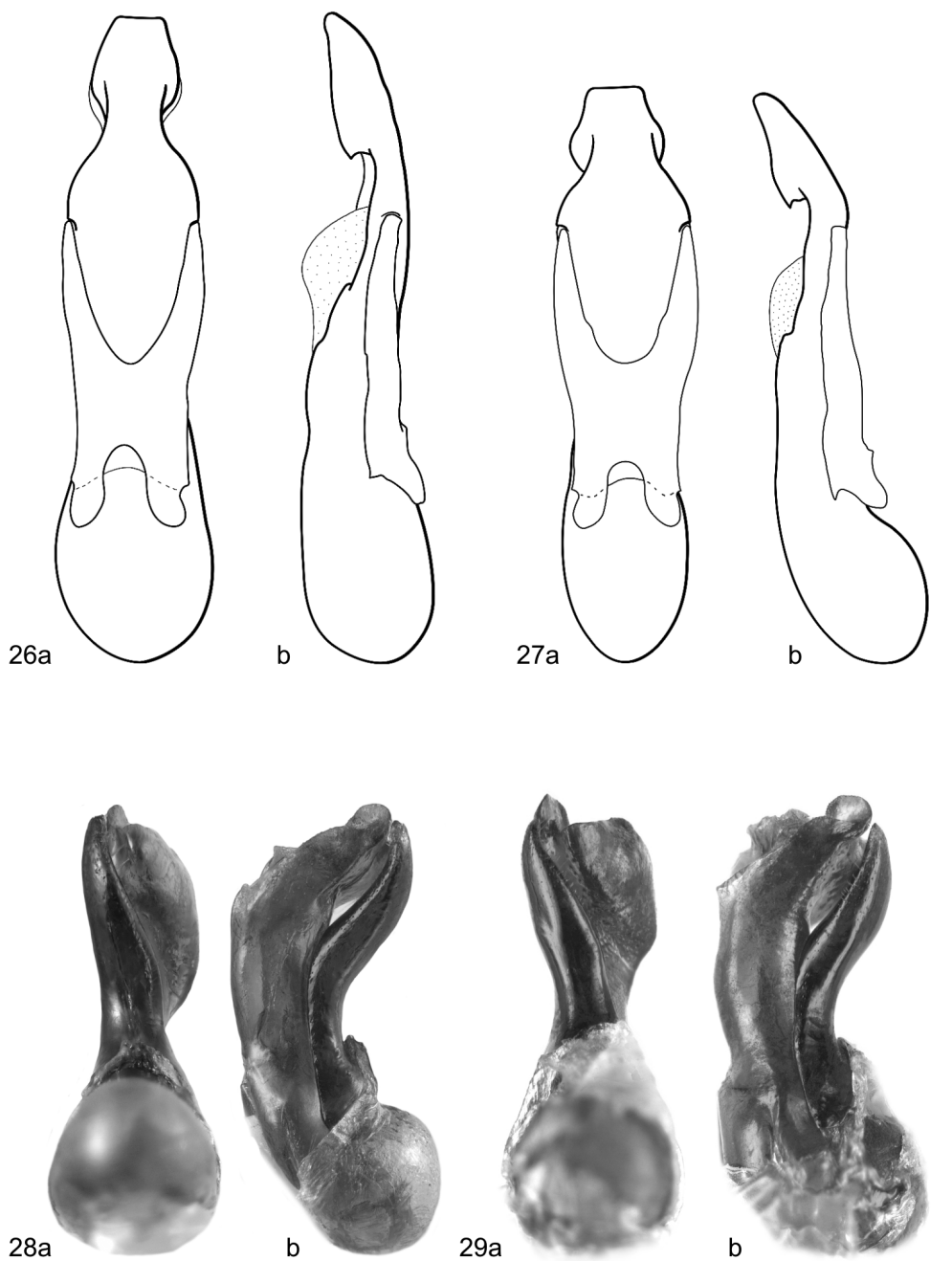
Figs. 13–16: Aedeagi of *Philonthus parvicornis*; 13) Austria, 14) Corsica, 15) Kyrgyzstan, 16) Sweden; a) ventral view, c) paramere; scale bar: 0.5 mm (a), 0.25 mm (c).



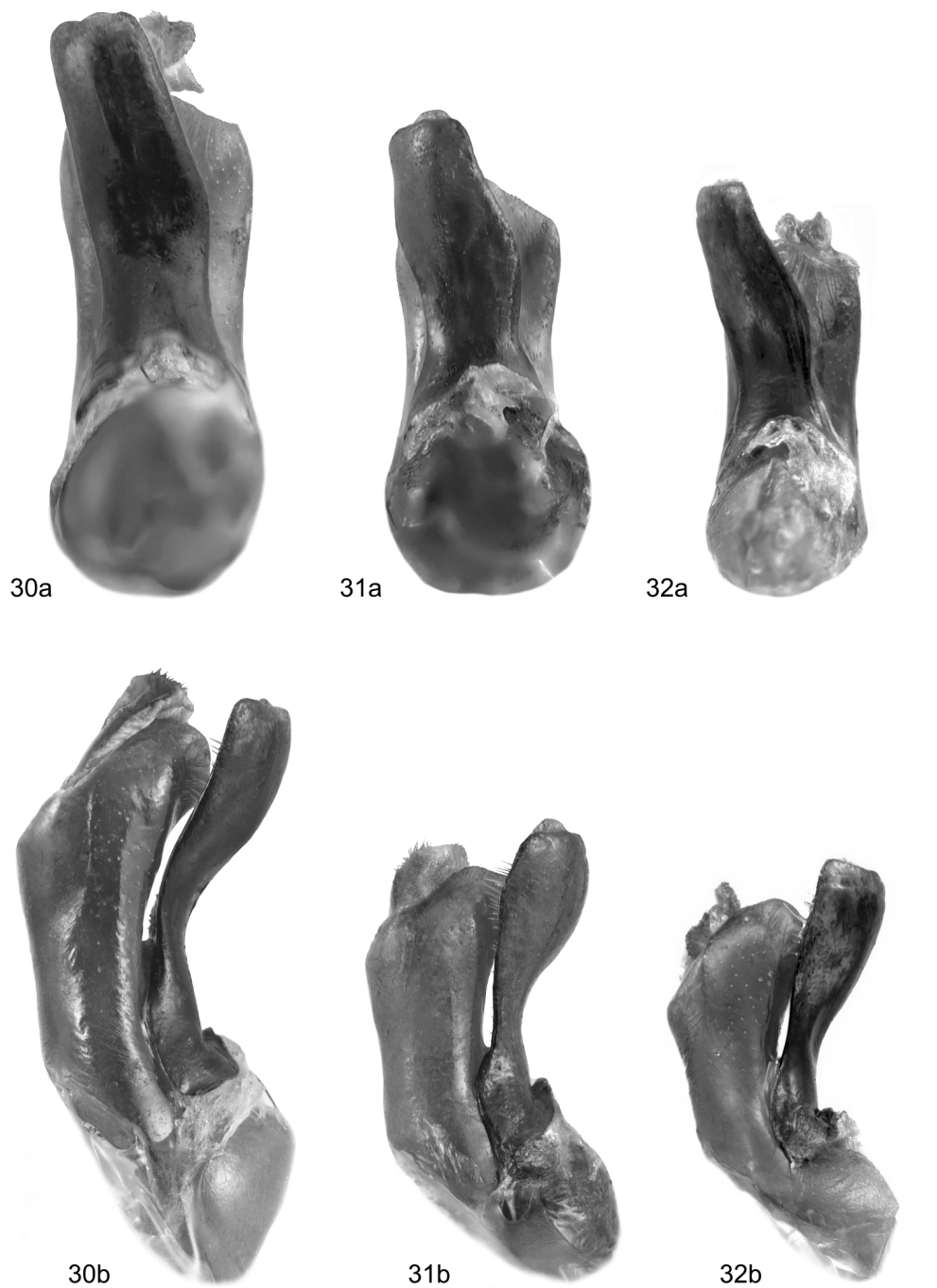
Figs. 17–21: Aedeagi of 17–18) *Philonthus viridipennis*, 19) *P. micans*, 20–21) *P. micantoides*; a) ventral view, b) lateral view, c) paramere; scale bars: 0.5 mm (a), 0.25 mm (c).



Figs. 22–25: Aedeagi of 22–23) *Gabrius sexualis*, 24) *G. breviventer*, 25) *G. sphagnicola*; a) ventral view, b) lateral view; scale bar: 0.5 mm.



Figs. 26–29: Aedeagi of 26) *Gabrius robustus*, 27) *G. toxotes*, 28) *Ocypus brunnipes*, 29) *O. alpicola*; a) ventral view, b) lateral view; scale bars: 0.5 mm (26–27), 1.0 mm (28–29).



Figs. 30–32: Aedeagi of 30) *Tasgius melanarius*, 31) *T. minax*, 32) *T. hispanus*; a) ventral view, b) lateral view; scale bar: 1.0 mm.



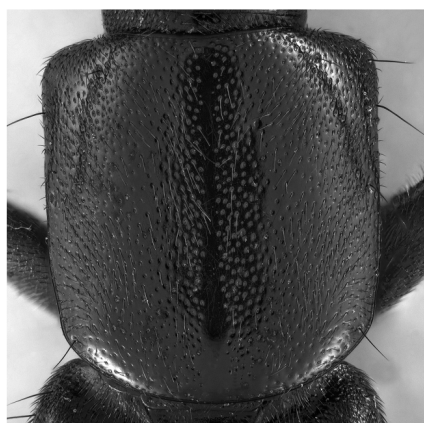
33a



34a



33b



34b



35a



35b

Figs. 33–35: Head (a) and pronotum (b) of 33) *Tasgius melanarius*, 34) *T. minax*, 35) *T. hispanus*.

Aedeagus (Fig. 32) very small; paramere distinctly exceeding median lobe in length, distinctly twisted to left.

DIAGNOSIS: By genital characters, this species is very similar to *T. melanarius* and *T. minax*, but with a much smaller aedeagus with distinctly shorter median lobe. Externally, *Tasgius hispanicus* is easily recognizable by the very small size, very sparse punctuation of head and pronotum, eyes longer than tempora and very short antennal segments. *Tasgius globulifer* (GEOFFROY, 1785), which also has a subparallel-sided pronotum and short antennae, differs by the very dense punctuation of head and pronotum. From *T. minax*, which also has a rather sparingly punctate anterior half of head, it differs by the almost completely dark legs and much shorter antennal segments.

ETYMOLOGY: The epithet refers to the country of origin of this species.

DISTRIBUTION: This species is so far known only from the province of Galicia in north-western Spain.

On some Staphylinini described by GISTEL (1857)

After publication of the two catalogs by HERMAN (2001) and SMETANA (2004), numerous doubtful names suddenly were brought back to attention that had faded into oblivion since their publication. One of these authors who introduced many names of doubtful identity was GISTEL (1857). ASSING (2008) gave a rather detailed account on that problematic topic.

In this chapter, all these names (except one: *Goerius viaticus* GISTEL, 1857) are synonymized. Gistel's very short, rather undifferentiated descriptions allow only rough speculations as to what species was actually meant. Above all, it seems impossible to locate the type specimens (see ASSING 2008). Therefore, the respective names are placed in synonymy with the most likely candidates. Since the synonymies have no impact on the current nomenclatural situation, the synonymies are not commented any further. *Goerius viaticus* GISTEL, 1857 remains untreated because it would affect the nomenclature of *Ocypus picipennis* ssp. *fallaciosus* MÜLLER, 1926, likely to be its junior synonym. This problem will be solved later on.

***Philonthus carbonarius* GRAVENHORST, 1802**

Philonthus nemorosus GISTEL, 1857: 89 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus discoideus* GRAVENHORST, 1802**

Philonthus heinlii GISTEL, 1857: 23 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus ebeninus* GRAVENHORST, 1802**

Philonthus picnocara GISTEL, 1857: 61 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus laevicollis* LACORDAIRE, 1835**

Philonthus olfactorius GISTEL, 1857: 19 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus longicornis* STEPHENS, 1832**

Philonthus eremus GISTEL, 1857: 79 **syn.n.**

Philonthus onthomanes GISTEL, 1857: 84 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus nitidicollis* LACORDAIRE, 1835**

Philonthus coenicola GISTEL, 1857: 23 **syn.n.**

Philonthus sospitalis GISTEL, 1857: 37 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus nitidus* FABRICIUS, 1787**

Philonthus scansor GISTEL, 1857: 70 **syn.n.**

***Philonthus parvicornis* GRAVENHORST, 1802**

Philonthus cunicularius GISTEL, 1857: 80 **syn.n.**

Philonthus temporalis* Mulsant & Rey 1853Philonthus aprilinus* Gistel, 1857: 61 syn.n.***Philonthus tenuicornis* Mulsant & Rey, 1853***Philonthus gyllenhali* Gistel, 1857: 74 syn.n.***Gabrius trossulus* Nordmann, 1837***Philonthus subnivalis* Gistel, 1857: 65 syn.n.***Ontholestes murinus* Linnaeus, 1758***Emus soropegus* Gistel, 1857: 67 syn.n.***Platydracus fulvipes* Scopoli, 1763***Emus figulus* Gistel, 1857: 69 syn.n.***Ocypus brunnipes* Fabricius, 1781***Goerius petricola* Gistel, 1857: 71 syn.n.***Quedius cruentus* Olivier, 1795***Philonthus putridarius* Gistel, 1857: 19 syn.n.***Quedius cinctus* Paykull, 1790***Philonthus littorinus* Gistel, 1857: 75 syn.n.***Quedius punctatellus* Heer, 1839***Philonthus amnicola* Gistel, 1857: 62 syn.n.**Acknowledgements**

The cooperation of the persons mentioned above (under “Abbreviations”) by providing the material used in this paper is greatly appreciated.

Zusammenfassung

Die Arbeit behandelt vorwiegend nomenklatorische Änderungen innerhalb der westpaläarktischen Staphylinini, speziell von Arten mit mitteleuropäischer Verbreitung. Eine neue Art aus Spanien wird beschrieben: *Tasgius hispanus*. Neue Synonyme: *Philonthus nimbicola* Fauvel, 1874 (= *P. montivagoides* Coiffait, 1963, = *P. obirensis* Lohse, 1988); *P. pyrenaeus* Märkel & Kiesenwetter, 1848 (= *P. parafrigidus* Coiffait, 1963); *P. varians* Paykull, 1789 (= *P. couloni* Drugmand, 1987); *P. jurgans* Tottenham, 1937 (= *P. derennei* Drugmand, 1987); *P. viridipennis* Fauvel, 1875 (= *P. diversiceps* Bernhauer, 1901); *Gabrius robustus* Smetana, 1953 (= *G. noei* Coiffait, 1966). Darüber hinaus werden 19 von Gistel (1857) beschriebene nomina dubia mit häufigen europäischen Arten synonymisiert. *Ocypus brunnipes* ssp. *alpicola* Erichson, 1840 wird in den Artrang erhoben. Die Aedeagi der meisten behandelten Arten, die Tergite X der Weibchen von vier Arten der *Philonthus varians*-Gruppe, sowie Kopf und Pronotum von drei *Tasgius*-Arten werden abgebildet.

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