

On the classification of the weevil tribe Oxyonychini (Coleoptera: Curculionidae)

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The genus *Suboxyonyx* Hoffmann, 1956 is transferred to Ceutorhynchini. A new subgenus *Aferonyx* is erected in the genus *Pseudoxyonyx* Hoffmann, 1956 for *Pseudoxyonyx pici* (Schultze, 1900) (type species), comb. n. (from *Notoxyonyx* Colonnelli, 1995) and *P. cailloli* (Peyerimhoff, 1919), comb. n. (from *Paroxyonyx* Hustache, 1931). A key to species of the subgenus *Aferonyx* is provided. The following new synonymies are established: *Platygasteronyx solskyi* (Faust, 1885) = *P. dieckmanni* Bajtenov, 1982, *Protoxyonyx subfenestratus* (Voss, 1967) = *P. mesasiaticus* Korotyaev, 1982.

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Introduction

Minor improvements seem to be wanting in the generic classification of the Oxyonychini since publications of Colonnelli (1995) and Korotyaev (1997). If the problem of coordination of the genus-group taxa (namely, the rank of the subgenera of *Platygasteronyx* Reitt. and that of *Paroxyonyx* Hust. and its allies) is left apart, the merely provisional placement of some species in *Paroxyonyx* in Colonnelli's work, the placement of *Oxyonyx pici* Schze. in *Notoxyonyx* Colonnelli, 1995, and the inclusion of *Suboxyonyx priesneri* Hustache, 1934 in Oxyonychini need revision. Here, these taxa are dealt with.

Genus *Suboxyonyx* Hoffmann, 1956

Examination of the syntype female of *S. priesneri* Hustache, 1934 (= *priesneri*: Colonnelli, 1995: 213 – misspelling) gives no idea of to which genus of Oxyonychini it may be really allied. It looks rather like a very xeromorphous genus of the Ceutorhynchini probably related to *Ceutorhynchus*, as supposed by Korotyaev & Cholokava (1989). So, unless feeding of *S. priesneri* on *Ephedra* is proved (the syntype label indicates collecting from grass), I see no reason of its placement in the Oxyonychini and transfer it in the Ceutorhynchini.

Genus *Notoxyonyx* Colonnelli, 1995

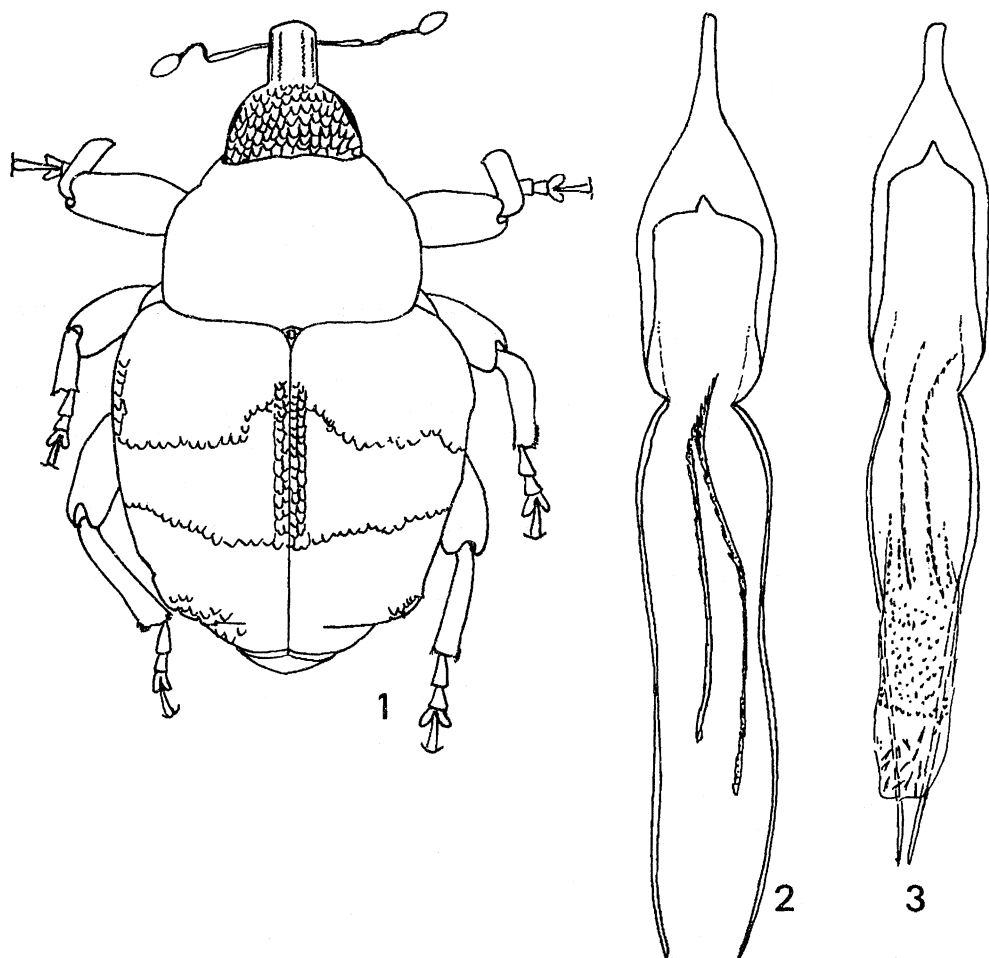
The description and figures of the type species, *N. impressus* Colonnelli, 1995, show a very peculiar taxon. *Oxyonyx pici* Schultze, 1900, also placed in *Notoxyonyx* by Colonnelli, is much more closely related to *Pseudoxyonyx aghadjaniani* Hoffmann, 1956, and is transferred to the genus *Pseudoxyonyx* here; a new subgenus is erected for it. The genus *Notoxyonyx* is monotypic.

Genus *Pseudoxyonyx* Hoffmann, 1956

Subgenus *Aferonyx* subgen. n.

Type species *Oxyonyx pici* Schultze, 1900.

Description. Differs from the nominotypical subgenus as follows. Rostrum distinctly tricarinate in basal two thirds. Lateral tubercles on prothorax obsolete. Disc of elytra more convex. Denticles on preapical calli of elytra arranged in a nearly regular, curved row and more distant from elytral sides. Furrow for reception of rostrum less deep, its sides not keeled behind fore coxae. Legs shorter; tibial grooves on all femora deeper, with bare surface. Tarsi broader, 3rd tarsal segment about 1.5 times as broad as 2nd; ventral surface of tarsi lacking spines. Scalloping conceals dorsal surface of the body entirely; scales more or less depressed in the middle. Elytral pattern more distinct. Aede-



Figs 1-3. 1, 2, *Pseudoxyonyx* (*Aferonyx* subg. n.) *pici* Schze.: 1, female; 2, aedeagus of a male from Aleppo, dorsal view; 3, *P. (A.) cailloli* Peyer., Morocco, aedeagus, dorsal view.

agus with apex strongly attenuate. Size smaller, 2.2-2.6 (?2.8) mm.

The subgenus comprises *Oxyonyx pici*, of which *O. crassipes* Schultze, 1899 is most likely a senior synonym, and *O. cailloli* Peyerimhoff, 1919, from Morocco.

Key to species of the subgenus *Aferonyx*

1(2). Elytra slightly broader; in male, 1.03 times as long as broad. Scales on upper side larger: on frons, 6-7 scales can be counted in the transverse row between the middle of eyes; on pronotum, 13 scales can be counted along median line. Elytral intervals with one or two confused rows of very broad scales; striae indistinct. Anterior margin of the dark transverse median band on elytra perpendicular to elytral suture, posterior margin dentate. Depression on anal sternite in male very

shallow and broad, occupying half of the sternite breadth, with small sharp denticles on sides near apical margin. Scales in the depression suberect, long, narrow lanceolate to hair-like, augmented with dark erect short setae near apical margin of the sternite. Aedeagus with a longer apical projection (Fig. 2). 2.5-2.6 (?2.8) mm. Middle East *P. pici* Schze.

2(1). Elytra slightly narrower; in male, 1.06, in female, 1.02 times as long as broad. Scales on upper surface smaller: 8-9 scales can be counted in transverse row in the middle of frons, and 15-16 scales along median line of pronotum. Elytral intervals with 2-3 confused rows of more or less elongate scales; striae distinct. Dark median band on elytra broadly rhombic: its anterior and posterior margins oblique to elytral suture and nearly straight. Anal sternite in male flattened in the medioposterior third and with a small transverse fovea along posterior margin of sternite. Scaling

of the sternite uniform, adpressed, except for the apical fovea, where scales are erect and more narrow. Hind margin of anal sternite with few setae directed lateroposteriorly. Aedeagus with a shorter apical projection (Fig. 3). 2.15-2.50 mm. NW Africa (Morocco, Algeria) *P. cailloli* Peyer.

***Pseudoxyonyx* (*Aferonyx*) *pici* (Schultze, 1900), comb. n. (Figs 1, 2)**

Oxyonyx pici (Schultze, 1900);
Notoxyonyx pici: Colonnelli, 1995.

Lectotype (see Colonnelli, 1995: 206) from the G. Frey collection was examined by me in Munich in 1994. A male from A. Hoffmann collection in the National Museum of Natural History in Paris was also examined (Fig. 2); it is labelled "Alepp[o] 1897", "*Oxyonyx syriacus* Schultze" by A. Schultze. Type material on *Oxyonyx crassipes* Schultze, 1899, stated to be in the Abeille de Perrin collection, needs re-examination; it is very likely to belong to *P. pici*.

***Pseudoxyonyx* (*Aferonyx*) *cailloli* (Peyerimhoff, 1919), comb. n.**

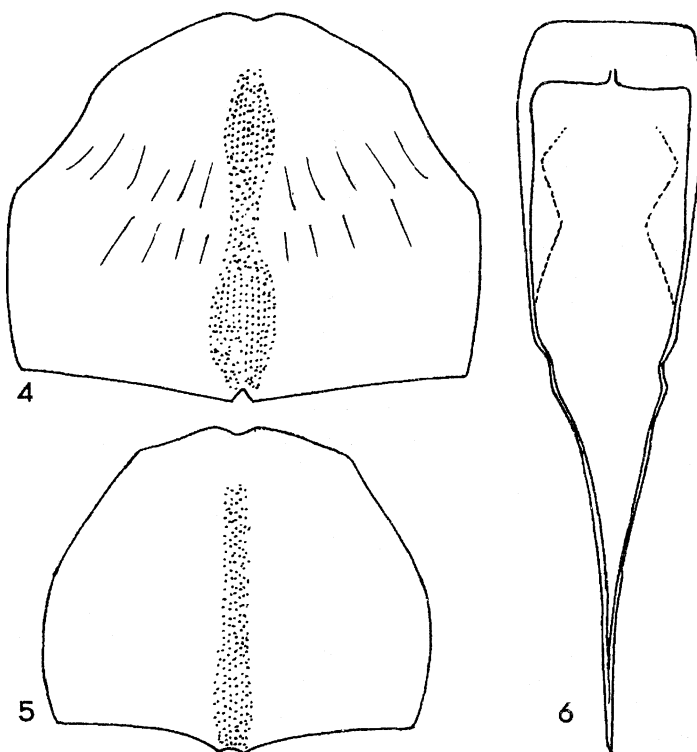
Oxyonyx cailloli (Peyerimhoff, 1919).

The short series in the P. de Peyerimhoff collection in Paris is collected later than 1919 and thus cannot include the type material. A male labelled "Asni - Resaya, Gr. Atlas, Maroc, 1200 m, 12.VII.1923, *Ephedra altissima*", and a female labelled "Bouira [?] Fahary, 20 avril 1924, *Eph. fragilis*", have been examined.

Subgenus ***Pseudoxyonyx*** Hoffmann, 1956

***Pseudoxyonyx* (*Pseudoxyonyx*) *aghadjaniani* Hoffmann, 1956 (Figs 4-6)**

Pseudoxyonyx aghadjaniani [sic]: Korotyaev, 1990: 229 - S Kazakhstan, Badakhshan (Tajikistan).



Figs 4-6. *Pseudoxyonyx* (*Pseudoxyonyx*) *aghadjaniani* Hoffm. 4, 5, males, prothorax; 6, aedeagus, dorsal view. 4, 6, Israel; 5, Armenia.

Material. **Turkey:** Adana, female holotype from National Museum of Natural History, Paris, examined. **Israel:** 1 ♂, 2 ♀, Negev, Har Qetura, 4 km SE of Shizzafan, 14.IV.1994 (M.G. Volkovitsh). **Armenia:** 1 ♂, Azat River valley downstream of Garni E of Yerevan, 20.VI.1997 (M.Yu. Savitsky). **Kazakhstan:** 1 ♀, Talas River at the entrance to the Ichkeletau Mountains, 13.VII.1982 (A.F. Emeljanov). **Kirghizia:** 1 ♂, 10 km ENE of Kochkorka, 10.VII.1986 (A.F. Emeljanov); 1 ♂, Lake Issyk-Kul, 12 km E of Kadzhisai, Lake Kara-Kul, 13.VII.1986 (A.F. Emeljanov); 1 ♂, 15 km NE of Arkhangelskoye, Fergana Valley, tall-grass semisavannah, 28.VI.1986 (A.F. Emeljanov). **Tajikistan:** 9 ♂, 17 ♀, 16 km NE of Vanch vill., sparse xerophilous mountain forest and bush, 18.VI.1986 (A.F. Emeljanov), and 2 ♂, 2 ♀, 16-17.VI.1986 (M.G. Volkovitsh); 3 ♂, 2 ♀, 15 km SW of Dusti, low-grass semisavannah, 29.V.1986 (A.F. Emeljanov).

The male from Armenia differs from all other specimens in having the prothorax narrower (Fig. 5), 1.2 times as broad as long (1.24-1.36 times as broad as long in the specimens from other localities), with sides evenly rounded, apical constriction on disc very shallow and broad, median sulcus shallower, not broadening in apical half and not divided by a transverse convexity in the mid-

dle of disc. In all other specimens examined, sides of prothorax distinctly angulate, with obtuse lateral tubercles; disc steeply sloping in apical half, median sulcus shallower in the middle, broadened at base and in apical half. Elytra in the specimen from Armenia also narrower and less rounded, with all intervals nearly flat, disc somewhat more flattened and more abruptly sloping to apex. Elytral pattern darker than usually, the pale area between the transverse dark basal and median bands not longer (= broader) than these bands. Size of the specimen (2.4 mm) is less than in the other beetles (2.45-2.7 mm). Although originating from the territory intermediate between the Middle East and Middle Asia, the Armenian specimen differs from both Israeli and Middle Asian series more sharply than these two differ from each other. Specimens from Israel differ from the Middle Asian ones in the slightly broader tarsi (Armenian specimen has similar tarsi) and denser scaling, concealing integument entirely; in the specimens from Middle Asia, scales are often narrower, especially those in the striae. Aedeagus (Fig. 6) in all the 3 geographic forms is very similar, slightly varying in the general outline. It is not unlikely that there are 3 species in the examined material, and additional specimens from Armenia and Turkey are necessary for final decision.

Platyasteronyx solskyi (Faust, 1885)

Platyasteronyx dieckmanni Bajtenov, 1982: 34, **syn. n.**

Examination of the male holotype and female paratype of *P. dieckmanni* in the Deutsches Entomologisches Institut in Eberswalde has revealed no characters to distinguish them from *P. solskyi*; neither have any been reported in the original description, where the species was compared with *Neoplatygaster venustus* Fst. The species is described from N Iran (Fariman near Meshed) and its name is a synonym of *P. solskyi*, which is common in E Caucasus and in Kopet Dagh Mountains (Turkmenistan).

Protoxyonyx subfenestratus (Voss, 1967)

Protoxyonyx mesasiaticus Korotyaev, 1982: 68, **syn. n.**

The location of the holotype of *P. subfenestratus* is unknown; a male paratype was

found in the Zoological Museum of the Humboldt University in Berlin. It is labelled "Afghanistan, Umgeb. Kabul, leg. J. Klapperich", "36621" (printed), supplied with E. Voss's handwritten identification label and red museum label "Paratypus". The specimen belongs to the species described by me from Middle Asia.

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