

***Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini* (Semenov, 1889)  
(Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Prioninae):  
descriptions of females and two new subspecies**

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**Abstract:** *Pogonarthron tschitscherini brunnescens* **ssp. n.** (Tash-Kumyr environs) and *P. t. pallidus* **ssp. n.** (Nayman water reserve) are described from Kyrgyzstan; ecology information included. Females of *P. t. tschitscherini* and *P. t. brunnescens* **ssp. n.** are described - the first known females of *Pogonarthron* (s. str.). The distinguishing characters of females of *Pogonarthron* (*Pseudomonocladum* Villiers, 1961) and *Miniprionus* Danilevsky, 1999 are discussed.

Several big series of *Pogonarthron tschitscherini* (Semenov, 1889) were collected in July 2017 in Kyrgyzstan by A.M. Shapovalov in three different geographically distant populations. Each population is peculiar morphologically and must be accepted as a subspecies described below. Females, which were unknown before, were collected in two subspecies.

Abbreviations of collections:

ZIN - collection of Zoological Institute (Saint Petersburg)

BPI - collection of Institute for Biology and Pedology of National Academy of Sciences of Kyrgyz Republic (Bishkek).

AS - collection of A. Shapovalov (Saint Petersburg)

AZ - collection of A. Zubov (Moscow)

MD - collection of M. Danilevsky (Moscow)

SM - collection of S. Murzin (Moscow)

***Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini* (Semenov, 1889)**

- Polyarthron tschitscherini* Semenov, 1889: 225 - "Turkestan: Osch?"; Heyden, 1893: 178; Pic, 1898: 34; 1905: 300.
- Polyarthron (Pogonarthron) tschitscherini*, Semenov, 1900: 250, 253, 254, 258 - "prov. Ferganensi (Osch)"; 1903: 203-204; Pic, 1900: 3; Pic, 1901g: 8.
- Prionus tschitscherini*, Lameere, 1912: 220; 1919: 135; Plavilstshikov, 1932: 188; Fuchs, 1956: 76; 1957: 290; Ovtchinnikov, 1996: 160.
- Prionus (Pogonarthron) tschitscherini*, Lameere, 1913: 75; Winkler, 1929: 1138; Ovchinnikov, 2007: 261.
- Prionus tshitsherini*, Semenov, 1935: 240, 243, 244 (unjustified emendation); Plavilstshikov, 1936: 90, 489; Lobanov et al., 1981: 794.
- Prionus (Polyarthron) tshitsherini*, Heyrovsky, 1939: 27.
- Pogonarthron tschitscherini*, Danilevsky, 1999: 189; Danilevsky, 2004: 9, 10; Danilevsky & Smetana, 2010: 93.
- Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini*, Danilevsky & Komiya, 2014: 267; Danilevsky, 2014: 61, 452, Tab. 4 (12-13).

**Type locality.** Kyrgyzstan, Osh environs - according to the original description.

**Description.** Males. Body and elytra from dark-brown, nearly black to pale-orange; male antennae shorter than body, with 20-26 joints; 3<sup>rd</sup> joint elongated, about 1.5 times longer than 1<sup>st</sup>, with short apical process, which can look as a short lamella or totally absent; apical process of 4<sup>th</sup> antennal joint can be very short, shorter than the joint, or longer, or as an acute angle or totally absent; other antennal joints (but apical one) with more or less long lamellae, middle joints with the longest lamellae; two apical joints are often fused and so apical joint becomes bilobed; prothorax with a single small lateral spine, which can be rather distinct, or in form of small tubercle, or totally obliterated; pronotum can be shining with scattered punctation or dull, densely punctated with conjugated dots, covered by long, more or less dense setae, which are usually totally lost in older specimens; anterior and posterior pronotal angles usually rounded, but sometimes distinct, anterior angles can be acute; elytra with more or less distinct costae, with more or less rough punctation in between, sometimes rugose; internal apical elytral angles rounded; body length: 13.5-22.3 mm, width: 5.2-8.4 mm.

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Females. Mandibles rather short, usually without acute apices, with obliterated internal dents (right mandible without tooth); labial palpi a little shorter than mandibles, maxillary palpi a little longer than mandibles; apical palpal joints elongated, more or less parallelsided or distinctly dilated apically; eyes small, much narrower than temples, strongly distant dorsally and ventrally; antennae with 19-23 joints; 3<sup>rd</sup> joint elongated, cylindrical, about as long as 1<sup>st</sup> or a little shorter; 4<sup>th</sup> joint is usually also cylindrical or slightly widened apically, but much shorter than 3<sup>rd</sup>; 5<sup>th</sup> joint usually similar to 4<sup>th</sup>, can be about as long as wide or slightly longer, very rare strongly widened apically; other joints (but apical one) with short triangular processes; prothorax strongly transverse, from to 1.8 to 2.2 times wider than long, usually about as wide anteriorly, as posteriorly or posteriorly a little wider, with rounded anterior and posterior angles, small lateral spines distinct and acute, or in form of short triangular tubercles, or totally obliterated; pronotum convex, glabrous, shining, with small irregular punctation; anterior intercoxal process narrow, curved, widened and rounded apically; scutellum strongly transverse, widely rounded posteriorly; elytra very short, rounded apically, never cover abdomen, usually not touching behind scutellum, but sometimes shortly contact; each elytron about 1.5 times longer than wide, or about as long as wide (inside each population); vestigial wings of about same size as elytra; 1<sup>st</sup> tarsal joint about as long as 5<sup>th</sup> and longer than 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> combined; 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> joints with long acute lobes; middle intercoxal process rather wide, emarginated posteriorly; posterior coxae strongly moved apart, the distance in between about equal to the width of each coxa; 7<sup>th</sup> abdomen tergite rounded, 7<sup>th</sup> abdomen sternite shallowly emarginated; body length: 14-35 mm, width: 7-11.5 mm.

*Pogonarthron (Pseudomonocladum) minutum* (Pic, 1905) is another species of the genus with known female (Danilevsky & Komiya, 2014). A single described female of *P. minutum* has very similar antennae, but with 18 joints only. Besides 5<sup>th</sup> antennal joint with a distinct apical process, though rather short. Elytra are rather long covering anterior half of abdomen and conjugating along about anterior third.

Very similar females (Drumont & Murzin, 2003) of *Miniprionus pavlovskii* (Semenov, 1935) have about same structure

of small strongly distant elytra as in *Pogonarthron* (s. str.), but antennae are rather short with 15 joints, hardly reaching (or not reaching) posterior pronotal margin, 3<sup>rd</sup> joint very short, transverse; 4<sup>th</sup> joint with acute process; right mandible with distinct tooth.

**Distribution.** Foothills of Chatkal, Fergana and Alay ridges around Fergana valley of Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan. The species consists of 3 subspecies: *Pogonarthron tschitscherini tschitscherini*, *P. t. brunnescens* **ssp. n.** and *P. t. pallidus* **ssp. n.** The detail distributional data are recorded for each subspecies in its description.

**Ecology.** The species inhabits savanoid steppe areas in foothills. The biotopes could be totally lacking trees and bushes, or often with numerous *Pistacea* trees. Each subspecies is characterized with certain hours of male activity. Males of the nominative subspecies are mostly active at the end of the daylight in about 18.00-19.00; several specimens were observed later after sunset in the twilight. Most of males of *P. t. brunnescens* **ssp. n.** are active during the twilight, but males *P. t. pallidus* **ssp. n.** are active in the total darkness. The period of female activity coincides with male activity.

Females spend about whole life inside the soil in their holes. Pupal chambers are situated in about 10-15 cm deep. Each pupal cell is connected with earth surface with a gallery made by larva ending by oval opening. Female ready for copulation leaves the soil through this opening and attracts males by rotate her ovipositor. Female hides herself inside her hole immediately after copulation. Males are able to penetrate inside female holes and copulate there, so females are not obliged to leave the soil. Oviposition takes place inside pupal cell. After oviposition some females die inside their holes, others leave the soil and can be observed outside. Larvae were found in the soil moving among the graminoid roots.

Probably the dark body colour and relatively short antennal lamellae in males of *P. t. tschitscherini* and *P. t. brunnescens* **ssp. n.** are connected with daylight activity. Males of *P. t. pallidus* **ssp. n.** are active in the darkness and have pale body and longer antennal lamellae. Very close *Pogonarthron petrovi* Danilevsky, 2004, distributed more southwards in south-west Tadzhikistan looks to be more specialized with better developed processes of 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> antennal joints, bigger eyes and always pale orange-yellow body.

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***Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini tschitscherini* (Semenov, 1889)**

Figs 1-8, 17, 20-21

*Polyarthron tschitscherini* Semenov, 1889: 225 - "Turkestan: Osch?"

**Type locality.** Kyrgyzstan, Osh environs - according to the original description.

**Description.** Relatively small subspecies; the smallest males and females of the species are known in this taxon; body and elytra dark-brown nearly black; only 5 males and one female from near Ozgur are lighter (brown), similar to the next subspecies, or sometimes apical  $\frac{3}{4}$  of elytra can be lightened; male elytral costae usually strongly exposed; elytra in females usually a little lighter, brownish; male antennae long (20-25 joints, usually 22), sometimes nearly reaching elytral apices; antennal lamellae relatively shorter, than in other subspecies; outer angle of 3<sup>rd</sup> antennal joint usually acutely attenuated or rounded; apical process of 4<sup>th</sup> antennal joint usually very short, shorter than the joint (but sometimes longer), often as an acute angle or totally absent; female antennae consist of 19-22 joints (usually 20); lateral thoracic spines in males usually very short, look like small tubercles or totally obliterated; elytral sculpture usually rough, often rugose; body length in males: 13.5-20.5 mm, width: 5.2-8 mm; body length in females: 14-35 mm, width: 7-10.5 mm. The longest female (because of strongly exposed abdomen) is in fact smaller (and narrower), than the biggest females of the next subspecies.

**Materials.** Holotype, male with goldish ring and 3 labels: 1) [pink] "Osch."; 2) "*Polyarthron / Tschitscherini / m. ♂. typus, AS. II. 89.*"; 3) "*Polyarthron / Tschitscherini / ♂. Typ. IV.98 m. / A. Semenov det.*" - ZIN; 94 males, 54 females, Kyrgyzstan, Osh Region, S env. of Osh, Ozgur village env., 40°25'N, 72°53'E, 1232 m, 9-10.07.2017, A. Shapovalov leg. - AS, MD, ZIN; 3 males from same locality, 6.7.2017, A. Shapovalov leg. - AS; 1 male, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad env., 1240 m, 5.7.2011, S. Ilnicky leg. - MD; 1 male, Khazret-Ayub, 27-28.VI.907, Gorsky [?Khazret-Ayub-Paygambar near Dzhahal-Abad] - ZIN; 1 male, "Dogous-Tai[,] Chaîne d'Alexandre[,] Rikbel 20.VII.1901" [wrong label] - ZIN; 1 male, Turkestan, Alexandrovsky Ridge, Dogut-Tau 20.VII. 1901 [wrong label] - ZIN.

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Besides a photo of a male (Kyrgyzstan, Osh Region, 25 km SW Osh, Papan water reserve (about 40°20'N, 72°59'E), 1000 m, 26-27.6.2008, A. Sochivko leg.) was received from A. Kozlov.

**Distribution.** Kyrgyzstan, foothills at the east part of Fergana valley from central foothills of Fergana Ridge (Dzhalal-Abad environs) to the north-east part of Alay Ridge (Kara-Buura river valley, environs of Osh-city and Papan water reserve). Specimens with labels “Dogous-Tai“ and “Dogut-Tau“ are typical *P. tschitscherini*, so the attribution of these localities to Kyrgyzsky (= Alexandrovsky) ridge was definitely wrong.

**Ecology.** The main flight activity was observed in warm evenings (27-28° C) between 18.00 and 19.00 before sunset and finished after dark came, though the nights were also rather warm (25° C); only 4-5 males were attracted by light in the night, so the absence of nocturnal activity is typical for the taxon. Larvae were found in the soil moving among the graminoid roots. Huge flocks of rosy starlings (*Sturnus roseus*) were hunting for the beetles.

***Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini brunnescens* ssp. n.**

Figs 9-14, 18, 22

**Type locality.** Kyrgyzstan, Dzhalal-Abad Region., 11 km WNW Tash-Kumyr, 41°23'N, 72°06'E, 1033 m.

**Description.** Relatively small subspecies, but most of specimens are a little bigger, than in the nominative subspecies; body and elytra from dark-brown to yellow-brown, considerably lighter than in the nominative subspecies; male elytral costae usually strongly exposed; elytra in females of about same color, or a little lighter, or a little darker than in males; male antennae a little shorter (20-26 joints, usually 22); antennal lamellae relatively longer, than in the nominative subspecies; apical process of 3<sup>rd</sup> antennal joint can be in form of short lamella or as an acute tooth, very rare totally absent; lamella of 4<sup>th</sup> antennal joint usually a little longer than the joint or about equal to its length; female antennae consist of 18-23 joints (usually 20); lateral thoracic spines present or absent; elytral sculpture in males smoother than in the nominative subspecies with more or less rough punctation but usually not rugose; body length in

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males: 16.0-20.5 mm, width: 6.3-8.0 mm; body length in females: 15-26 mm, width: 8-11.5 mm.

**Materials.** Holotype, male, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad Region., 11 km WNW Tash-Kumyr, 41°23'N, 72°06'E, 1033 m, 17-19.07.2017, A. Shapovalov leg. - ZIN; paratypes: 62 males, 42 females with same label (but a part of specimens was collected by A. Matveev) - AS, MD, ZIN; 4 males, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad Region, about 5 km W Tash-Kumyr, Balapan-Say, 41°20'N, 72°07'E, 779 m, 5.07.2017, A. Shapovalov leg. - AS; 2 males, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad Region, Tash-Kumyr (about 41°20'N, 72°14'E), 700 m, 12.7.1991 and 26.7.1991, M. Danilevsky leg. - MD; 1 male, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad Region, Tash-Kumyr, 700m, 18.7.1997, A.Klimenko leg. - MD; 1 male, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad Region, Shamaldy-Say env. (about 41°12'N, 72°12'E) southwards Tash-Kumyr, 520m, 22.6.2009 - SM; 1 male, Kyrgyzstan, Dzhahal-Abad Region, 24 km WSW Tash-Kumyr (35 km SE Kerben), 41°16'44"N, 71°56'21"E, 700 m, 17.06.2013, N.I. Rubin leg. - AZ.

**Distribution.** Kyrgyzstan, foothills at the north part of Fergana valley: south-east foothills of Chatkal Ridge and marginal west of Fergana Ridge - the area westwards and southwards Tash-Kymur (including its nearest environs). Rather probably the taxon is distributed in the nearest areas of Uzbekistan. A locality known in 24 km WSW Tash-Kumyr is situated in 2.5 km from the state borderline.

**Ecology.** The flight was observed after the sunset during twilight (24-25°C). Only a few specimens (about 10) were attracted in the dark by light as the nights were rather fresh. Larvae were discovered among graminoid roots in the steppe biotope with Gramineae domination.

***Pogonarthron (s. str.) tschitscherini pallidus ssp. n.***

Figs 15-16, 19, 23

**Type locality.** Kyrgyzstan, Osh Region, north environs of Nayman water reserve, 4 km N Sarykandy, 40°21'N, 72°21'E, 1241 m.

**Description.** Only males available; relatively big subspecies; body and elytra orange-yellow; male antennae shorter than in other subspecies (20-25 joints, usually 22-24), but antennal lamellae are

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the longest; apical process of 3<sup>rd</sup> antennal joint can be in form of short lamella or as an acute tooth, very rare about totally absent; lamella of 4<sup>th</sup> antennal joint usually very long, much longer than the joint (sometimes in about 3 times), very rare about equal to its length; lateral thoracic spines can be rather long, rarely absent; anterior thoracic angles often acute; pronotum with more or less scattered punctation, rarely conjugated; elytra more or less smooth, with small punctation, never rugose; male elytral costae usually feebly exposed; body length in males: 13.8-22.3 mm, width: 6.1-9.2 mm.

**Materials.** Holotype, male, Kyrgyzstan, Osh Region, north env. of Nayman water reserve, 4 km N Sarykandy, 40°21'N, 72°21'E, 1241 m, 7-8.07.2017, A.Shapovalov leg. - ZIN; paratypes: 178 males with same label (but a part of specimens was collected by A. Matveev) - AS, MD, ZIN; 1 male, Kyrgyzstan, Batken Reg., Kyzyl-Kiya env. (about 40°15'N, 72°8'E) - BPI.

**Distribution.** Foothills at the south part of Fergana valley in Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan; north foothills of Alay Ridge near Nayman water reserve and Kyzyl-Kiya (Osh and Batken regions of Kyrgyzstan respectively). The taxon must penetrate to Uzbekistan as Kyrgyzstan localities are situated very close to the state borderline. Semenov's (1903) record to the "N. Margelan" looks adequate.

**Ecology.** Most of specimens were collected by light in warm (25-26°C) nights during 1-1.5 hours; later the temperature was getting low; many specimens were discovered after the flight activity hiding under the stones, pieces of soil and so on in the night, as well as in the daytime.

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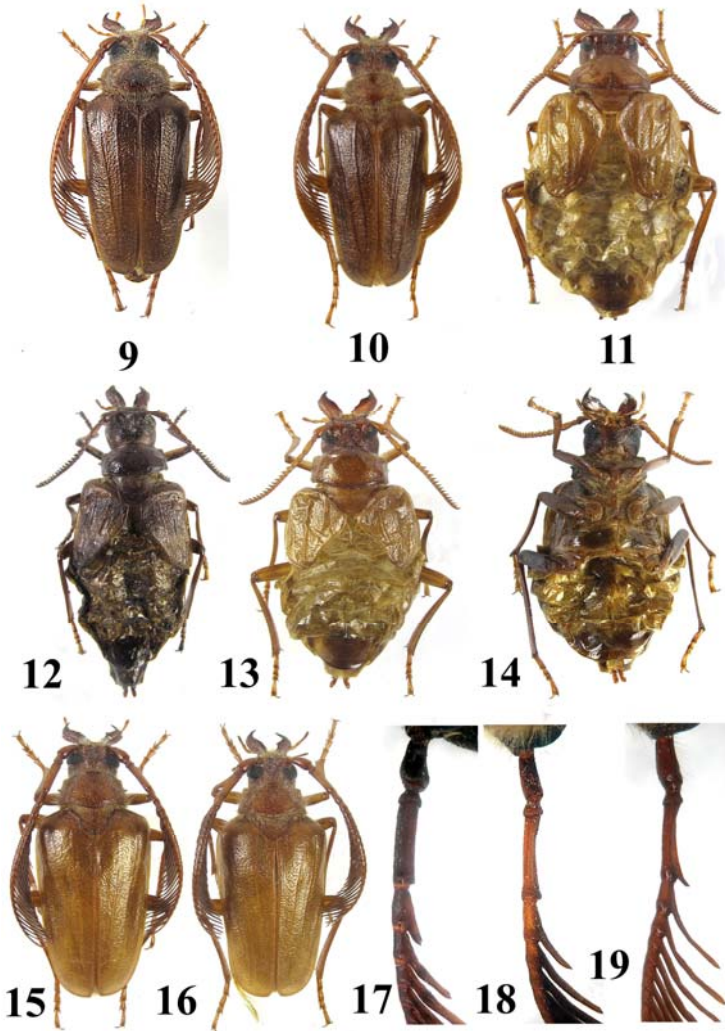
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**Figs 1-8.** *Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini tschitscherini*:

1- male, holotype; 2 - holotype labels; 3-4 - males, Ozgur environs southwards Osh; 5-7 - females, same locality, dorsal view; 8 - female, same locality, ventral view.



**Figs 9-19.** 9 - *P. t. brunnescens* ssp. n., holotype; 10 - *P. t. brunnescens* ssp. n., male, paratype, 11km WNW Tash-Kumyr; 11-13 - *P. t. brunnescens* ssp. n., females, paratypes from same locality, dorsal view; 14 - *P. t. brunnescens* ssp. n., female, paratype from same locality, ventral view; 15 - *P. t. pallidus* ssp. n., holotype; 16 - *P. t. pallidus* ssp. n., male, paratype, north bank of Nayman water reserve; 17 - usual structure of antennal base of *P. (s. str.) t. tschitscherini*; 18 - same of *P. t. brunnescens* ssp. n.; 19 - same, *P. t. pallidus* ssp. n.



21



23



20



22

**Figs 20-23.** 20 - *Pogonarthron* (s. str.) *tschitscherini tschitscherini*, female; 21 - locality of *P. t. tschitscherini*, Ozgur environs; 22 - locality of *P. t. brunnescens* **ssp. n.**, 11km WNW Tash-Kumyr; 23 - locality of *P. t. pallidus* **ssp. n.**, north bank of Nayman water reserve.

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