

**New species of the genus *Physoronia* from the Far East and
Kryzhanovskiella gen. n. from Australia, with taxonomic notes
on the *Pocadius* complex (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae)**

A. G. KIREJTSHUK

Zoological Institute, Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, 199034, Russia
E-mail: AK3929@AK3929.spb.edu

Abstract – *Physoronia taiwanensis* sp. n. (Taiwan) and *Physoronia intermedia* sp. n. (Russian Far East) are described. New synonymy for the taxa *Physoronia* REITTER, 1884 (= *Lordyrodes* REITTER, 1884, syn. n., *Pocadioides* GANGLBAUER, 1899, syn. n.) as well as for *Pocadioides gracilis* JELÍNEK, 1978 (= *Lordyrodes kaszabi* KIREJTSHUK, 1984, syn. n.) is established. *Kryzhanovskiella* gen. n. is proposed for *Atarphia aequilibris* KIREJTSHUK, 1986 and *Atarphia pecki* KIREJTSHUK, 1986 (type species). Placement of *Omositoides* SCHAUFUSS, 1892 in the *Pocadius* complex of genera is discussed. With 16 figures.

Key words – Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, Nitidulinae, Nitidulini, Systematics, new genus, new species, Russian Far East, Taiwan, Australia, synonymy, taxonomy.

INTRODUCTION

Relationships between species of *Physoronia* REITTER, 1884, *Lordyrodes* REITTER, 1884 and *Pocadioides* GANGLBAUER, 1899 were established by KIREJTSHUK (1997), and his interpretation was later supported and partly revised (JELÍNEK 1999). Nevertheless, even the species described before 1997 do not allow a clear separation of the subgenera. One of the new species described below shares the characters of different “subgenera” and, therefore makes the previous interpretation useless. JELÍNEK (1999) made many valuable remarks on the position of this group; however, its proposed relationship to the genus *Ussuriphia* KIREJTSHUK, 1992 can scarcely be recognized, because the similarities of these groups are the result of parallel development of some characters rather than of common ancestry (KIREJTSHUK & KVAMME 2002). *Ussuriphia* is thought to belong in the *Phenolia* complex, while *Physoronia* and its other relatives should be placed among the *Pocadius* complex. JELÍNEK (1999) quite correctly characterized the genus *Atarphia* REITTER, 1884 and pointed out some inconsistency of the original placement of *Atarphia aequilibris* KIREJTSHUK, 1986 and *A. pecki* KIREJTSHUK, 1986. These

two species share some characters, which could be regarded as traces of ancient isolation from the Indo-Malayan species and used to erect a new genus for these species (*Kryzhanovskiella* gen. n. is proposed for this purpose). After re-examination of the type specimen of *Omositoidea gigantea* SCHAUFUSS, 1892, an inconsistency in the original author's diagnosis was clarified, and its similarity to members of the *Pocadius* complex was suggested (KIREJTSHUK & POINAR, in preparation). Thus, this complex should include the following genera: *Atarphia* REITTER, 1884, *Hebasculinus* KIREJTSHUK, 1992, *Hebascus* ERICHSON, 1843, *Hyleopocadius* JELÍNEK, 1977, *Niliodes* MURRAY, 1868, *Kryzhanovskiella* gen. n., *Omositoidea* SCHAUFUSS, 1892, *Physoronia* REITTER, 1884 (= *Lordyodes* REITTER, 1884, syn. n., *Pocadioides* GANGLBAUER, 1899, syn. n., *Oсотima* REBMANN, 1944), *Pocadites* REITTER, 1884, *Pocadius* ERICHSON, 1843, *Pseudoplatychora* GROUVELLE, 1890, *Teichostethus* SHARP, 1891 (misprinted as "*Trichostethus*").

***Physoronia taiwanensis* sp. n.**

(Figs 1–6)

Type material – “TAIWAN, Nantou county, Rinnei Nature Conservation Area, between Meifeng and Tsuifeng”, “from tree trunk at night, 16.XI.2002, L. Ronkay & O. Merkl” (holotype, male, Hungarian Natural History Museum, and 36 paratypes, Hungarian Natural History Museum, Natural History Museum in London, Zoological Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg, and Taiwan Forestry Research Institute, Taipei); “TAIWAN, Ilan county, Fushan Botanical Garden, from gilled mushrooms, 8–11.IV.2002, O. Merkl” (one paratype, Hungarian Natural History Museum).

Description of male (holotype) – This new species is rather similar to *Physoronia explanata* REITTER, 1884. Therefore, some characters shared by both species are omitted in the description below. Length 4.6, width 2.7, height 1.3 mm. Rather convex dorsally and slightly so ventrally; reddish with some infuscations on pronotal disk, lateral and apical parts of elytra (prescutellar area of elytra concolorous with most parts of body) and with rather dark antennal club; somewhat shining; dorsum with moderately dense, moderately long, recumbent and slightly conspicuous hairs, slightly longer than distance between their insertions; besides, the dorsum with sparser, longer, suberect and much more conspicuous golden yellowish hairs (arcuate in lateral view), forming longitudinal rows on elytra, and dispersed groups with somewhat denser hairs; underside with thin and inconspicuous hairs.

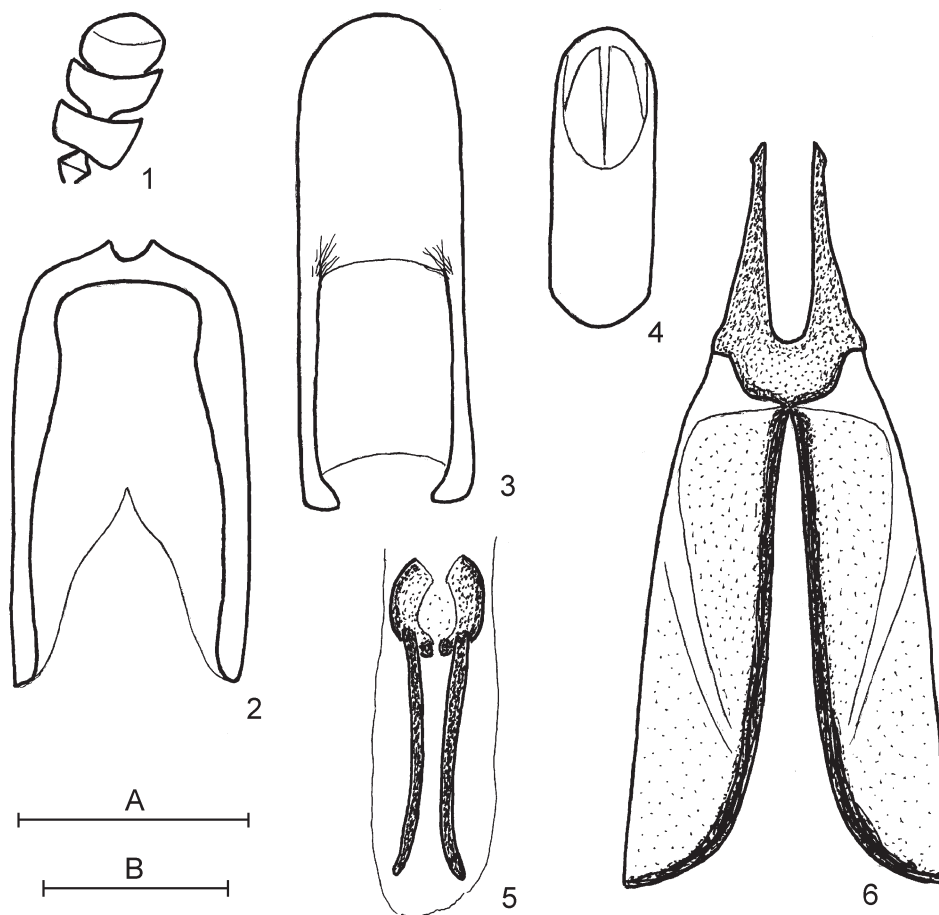
Labrum with transversely truncate outline and without excision between lobes (lobes only separated by a median suture). Antennal club nearly twice as long as wide, with inner part of antennomere 10 somewhat expanded posteriorly. Distance between procoxae as narrow as that between mesocoxae and almost half as broad as that between metacoxae (the latter subequal to width of antennal club). Pygidium very broadly rounded at apex. Anal sclerite with paramedial tubercles. Aedeagus heavily sclerotized with well-outlined sclerites of inner sac of penis.

Female – Differs from male only in absence of anal sclerite, exposed from under pygidium. Ovipositor well sclerotized.

Variations – Length 3.7–5.2 mm. Some paratypes also have base of head, or most of head surface, infuscated base. Infuscations on dorsal sclerites are rather variable in size and intensity of color, sometimes completely disappearing on pronotum. However, the shape of the male anal sclerite, apex of penis trunk and type of sclerotization in the inner sac of penis are rather stable in all specimens examined.

Etymology – The name of this new species is derived from the island of Taiwan.

Diagnosis – This new species differs from both *P. explanata* and *P. pseudo-explanata* JELÍNEK, 1999 in the shape of antennal club and structure of aedeagus, including rounded apex of penis trunk and armature of inner sac of penis, and from



Figs 1–6. *Physoronia taiwanensis* sp. n., male: 1 = antennal club, 2 = anal sclerite, ventral, 3 = tegmen, ventral, 4 = penis trunk, dorsal, 5 = armature of inner sac, dorsal; 6 = female, ovipositor, ventral. Scales: A = 0.5 mm to Fig. 1, B = 0.25 mm to Figs 2–6

P. explanata also in the deeper median excision between coxites of the ovipositor, and from *P. pseudoexplanata* also in the shape of the male anal sclerite. Besides, this new species is distinct from *Physoronia schneideri* JELÍNEK, 1999, another member of the genus known from Taiwan, which has also rounded apex of the penis trunk, in the more or less expressed infuscations on dorsal sclerites, more conspicuous long hairs curved and narrowed apically, strongly closed labral lobes, in the different shape of antennal club, pronotum more narrowed at base, shallower and indistinct paramedial depressions behind mentum, more narrowly separated all pairs of coxae, widely rounded apex of prosternal process, median emargination of apex of anal sclerite and peculiar armature of inner sac of penis.

***Physoronia intermedia* sp. n.**

(Figs 7–16)

Type material – “Ussuri, Maritime Terr., Hassan Distr., 23–24.V.1990, Ryazanovka, S. Kazantzev” (holotype, female, Naturhistorisches Museum in Basel, and 1 paratype, female Zoological Institute of Russian Academy of Sciences, St. Petersburg).

Description of female (holotype) – Length 5.0, width 3.0, height 1.8 mm. Rather convex dorsally and slightly ventrally; most part of pronotum and elytra dark brown to black, head, explanate pronotal sides, prescutellar places of elytra and pygidium reddish; metasternum and ventrites chestnut brown, remainder of underside and appendages reddish brownish (except dark antennal club); rather dull because of dirty surface, although integument smooth and shining; dorsum with very sparse and short subrecumbent hairs, much shorter than distance between their insertions, besides, with very long, suberect dark or sometimes light spines with stump apices, somewhat longer than distance between their insertions and longer than tarsal claws; underside with thin and moderately conspicuous hairs, about as long as distance between their insertions.

Head and prosternum with very large shallow punctures, interspaces between them 1/4–1/3 of puncture diameter and alutaceous. Pronotum with shallow and almost indistinct punctures and smoothed interspaces between them. Elytra with moderately large, not quite distinct, shallow and partly depressed punctures, 2–3 times as large as eye facets in diameter, interspaces between them 2–3 puncture diameters and rather smooth (punctures forming indistinct longitudinal rows). Pygidium with almost distinct punctures, somewhat larger than eye facets in diameter, interspaces about equal to puncture diameter. Ventrites with shallow distinct punctures, about twice larger than eye facets in diameter, interspaces between them somewhat less than a puncture diameter (interspaces on ventrite 1 even markedly broader than a puncture diameter), finely alutaceous to finely microreticulated. Metasternum about as punctured as ventrite 1, but interspaces between punctures completely smooth.

Head slightly depressed behind antennal insertions and at inner eye edges, about 5/6 as long from truncate anterior edge of frons to file on vertex as the distance between moderately large eyes (consisting of moderately small facets), with temples not extended beyond level of outer edge of eyes; parocular ridges clearly raised in the posterior half and joined with transverse occipital line. Labrum moderately exposed, subtruncate and medially sutured. Mandibles slightly exposed. Antennae slightly shorter than head, wide, their club subovoid, about 1 and 1/3 as long as wide, compos-

ing about $2/7$ of total antennal length; scape half as long as antennal club, somewhat longer than wide and with arcuate outer edge; antennomere 2–4 subequal in length. Pronotum rather convex at disk, widely subexplanate at sides (as widely subexplanate as length of antennal club) and with an extremely narrow border along edges; there is a pair of paramedial depressions behind the middle. Elytra moderately vaulted at disk, moderately explanate along lateral edges (nearly as widely explanate as scape width); their apices subacute and forming a sutural corner, subsutural lines quite distinct in distal fourth. Pygidium widely rounded at apex, rather projecting apically.

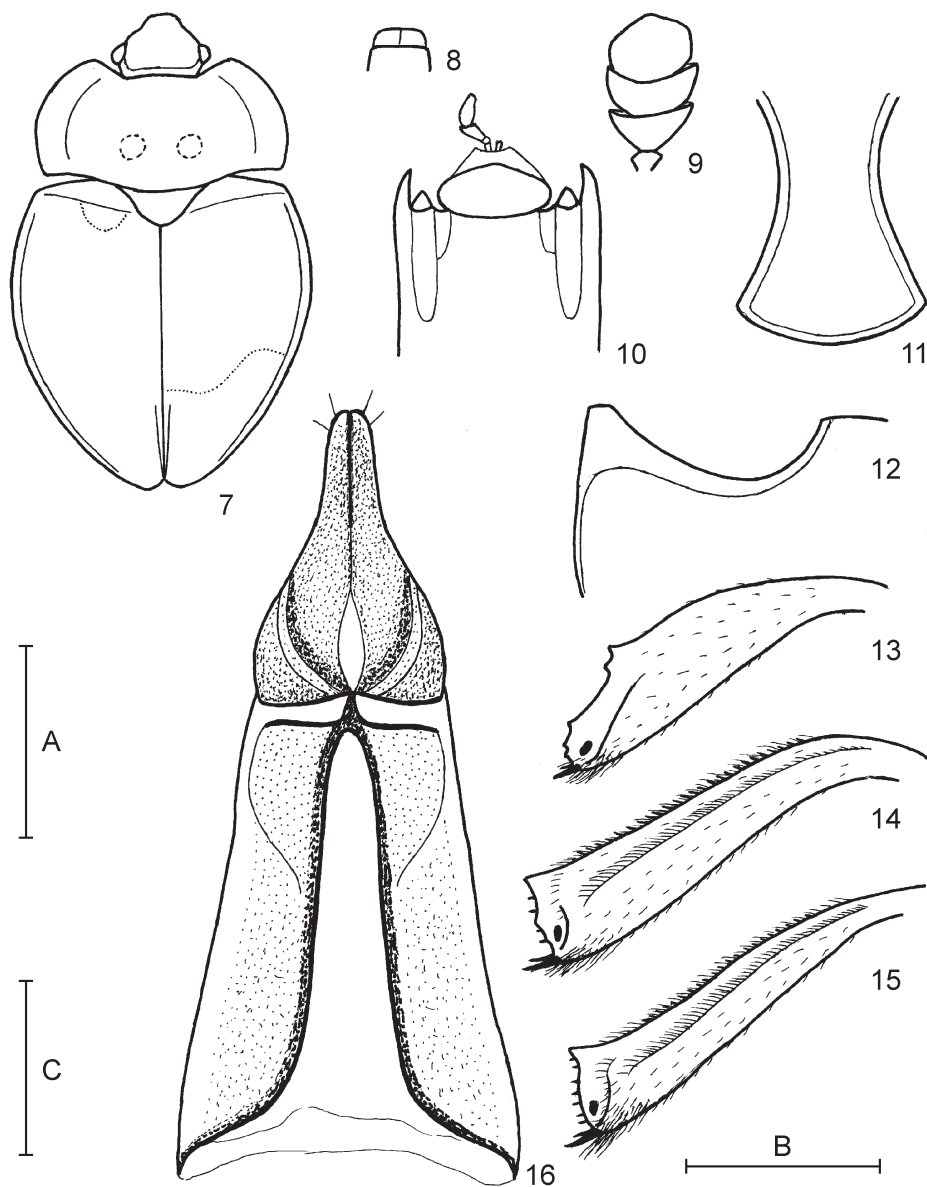
Last labial palpomere elongate and narrowed to suboblique apex (more than twice as long as wide). Subparamental grooves distinct and follow closely antennal grooves. Antennal grooves subparallel-sided. Prosternal process moderately curved along coxae, but with vertically abrupt apex, widest at widely rounded posterior edge about twice more than width of antennal club. Mesosternum rather excavate and medially swollen. Distance between mesocoxae slightly broader and that between metacoxae about 1 and $1/3$ as broad as that between procoxae. Metasternum subflattened, somewhat longer than prosternum with process, its anterior edge between coxae distinctly convex and posterior one between coxae shallowly and broadly emarginate. Submesocoxal lines deviating from posterior edge of cavity only just at lateral angles of metasternum. Submetacoxal line following along posterior edge of cavity. Ventricle 1 somewhat longer than ventrites 2–3 combined and hypopygidium about $2/3$ as long as ventrite 1. Epipleura gradually narrowed distally and not reaching elytral apices, slightly elevating laterally and about 1.5 times as wide as antennal club.

Tibiae subequal to or slightly narrower than antennal club, protibia widest at distal third and not crenulate along outer edge, meso- and metatibiae with slightly subapical outer corner, meso- and metatibiae with short and dense setae along outer edge. Femora with usual outline, pro- and mesofemora about 1 and $2/3$, but metafemur somewhat more than twice as wide as antennal club and more than 2.5 times as long as wide (metafemur as wide as distance between metacoxae). Tarsi narrowly lobed, slightly wider than antennal flagella, claws long and somewhat bulged at base. Ovipositor moderately sclerotized.

Variation – The paratype is 5.3 mm in length and differs slightly from the holotype in the larger pale part of elytra, which extends to the proximal $2/3$.

Etymology – Epithet of this new species means “intermediate”, “intervening”, “interim”, “transitional”, “in-between” and so on.

Diagnosis – This new species has very distinct ocular ridges joined with a transverse occipital line and an ovipositor structure very unusual for the genus. It is characterized by a comparatively generalized outline of its sclerites, very distinct from all congeners, however the beetles here described show some similarity to each of groups of the genus formerly regarded as subgenera (KIREJTSHUK 1997, JELÍNEK 1999, etc.) or genera (JELÍNEK 1978, KIREJTSHUK 1984, etc.). It is particularly similar to “*Lordyodes*” sensu JELÍNEK, 1999 in its overall habitus and many structural characters, including the flattened protibia, differing from it not only in the parocular ridge and structure of the ovipositor, but also in the lack of longitudinal isolation of the prosternal middle, widely explanate pronotal and moderately explanate elytral sides, sides of pronotum narrowed as anteriorly as posteriorly, subparallel antennal grooves, almost regularly seriate puncturation on elytra, submesocoxal lines closed along the inner edge of metepisterna, markedly narrower



Figs 7–16. *Physoronia intermedia* sp. n., female: 7 = body with outline of explanate sides of pronotum and elytra, paramedial depressions on pronotum, and also with dotted contour of lightened parts of elytra (left side: holotype, right side: paratype), dorsal, 8 = anterior part of head and labrum, dorsal, 9 = antennal club, 10 = mentum, labial palpus, antennal grooves and paramental depressions, ventral, 11 = prosternal process, ventral, 12 = submesocoxal line, 13 = protibia, dorsal, 14 = mesotibia, dorsal, 15 = metatibia, dorsal, 16 = ovipositor, ventral. Scales: A = 1.0 mm to Fig. 7, B = 0.5 mm to Figs 8–15, C = 0.25 mm to Fig. 16

prosternal process and rather wider epipleura. At the same time, this new species is similar to “*Physoronia*” sensu JELÍNEK, 1999 in the subparallel antennal grooves, widely explanate pronotal and moderately explanate elytral sides, a trace of paramedial depressions on pronotum, lack of longitudinal isolation of prosternum, width of prosternal process and epipleura as well as by some other characters, but it is quite distinct from the latter in its flattened protibia, almost regularly seriate puncturation on the elytra, contour of submesocoxal lines deviated from the posterior edge of mesocoxal cavity and closed to the inner edge of metepisterna, shallowly emarginated posterior edge of metasternum and comparatively wider meso- and metatibiae. Finally it is also similar to “*Pocadioides*” sensu JELÍNEK, 1999 in the almost regularly seriate puncturation on elytra, compressed protibiae, comparatively narrow prosternal process, but it is quite distinct from the latter its flattened protibia, subparallel antennal grooves, traces of paramedial depressions on pronotum, sides of pronotum narrowed as anteriorly as posteriorly, widely explanate pronotal and elytral sides, not elevated middle of prosternum, widely separated metacoxae. The parocular ridges on dorsal surface are well raised in *P. intermedia* sp. n., but very weak parocular ridges can also be traced in *P. latipes* REITTER, 1884 and *P. dentipes* JELÍNEK, 1978 and in the Indo-Malayan members of “*Pocadioides*”.

Taxonomical notes – The combination of the characters of this new species does not allow placing it in any of the groups recently recognized as subgenera (JELÍNEK 1999) and some of its characters have been used as diagnostic for each of these subgenera. Therefore, the author prefers regarding all subgeneric names (KIREJTSHUK 1997, JELÍNEK 1999) as synonyms instead of erecting a new subgenus. Thus, the following synonymy of the genus *Physoronia* is proposed here: *Physoronia* REITTER, 1884 (= *Lordyodes* REITTER, 1884, **syn. n.**; *Pocadioides* GANGLBAUER, 1899, **syn. n.**; *Osofima* REBMANN, 1944). As a result, the following 18 species comprise the genus (original genera, if different, are in parentheses):

- *P. affinis* (KIREJTSHUK, 1984) (*Lordyodes*);
- *P. brunnea* (KIREJTSHUK, 1984) (*Atarphia*);
- *P. caudata* JELÍNEK, 1999;
- *P. dentipes* (JELÍNEK, 1978) (*Lordyodes*);
- *P. explanata* REITTER, 1884 (= *Osofima klapperichi* REBMANN, 1944);
- *P. gracilis* (JELÍNEK, 1978) (*Pocadioides*) (= *Lordyodes kaszabi* KIREJTSHUK, 1984, **syn. n.**). This synonymy is proposed on the basis of comparison of the type specimens of both;
- *P. harmandi* (GROUVELLE, 1903) (*Pocadius*). This species may be conspecific with *P. affinis* or *P. gracilis*; re-examination of type series, which should be in the Museum National d’Histoire Naturelle, Paris, is needed;

- *P. intermedia* **sp. n.**;
- *P. japonica* REITTER, 1873 (*Pocadius*) (= *Pocadius unicolor* REITTER, 1884; *Pocadius rufimargo* REITTER, 1884);
- *P. latipes* (REITTER, 1884) (*Lordyrodes*);
- *P. olexai* JELÍNEK, 1999;
- *P. pallentis* (KIREJTSHUK, 1984) (*Atarphia*);
- *P. pseudoexplanata* JELÍNEK, 1999 ;
- *P. reitteri* GROUVELLE, 1892;
- *P. schneideri* JELÍNEK, 1999;
- *P. taiwanensis* **sp. n.**;
- *P. uhligi* (KIREJTSHUK, 1984) (*Atarphia*);
- *P. wajdelota* (WANKOWICZ, 1869) (*Pocadius*).

Kryzhanovskiella gen. n.

Type species – *Atarphia pecki* KIREJTSHUK, 1986, herewith designated.

Other species included – *Atarphia aequilibris* KIREJTSHUK, 1986.

Description – The species included in the new genus were described in detail by KIREJTSHUK (1986) and, therefore, it seems sufficient to mention only the main features of these two species that justify proposing a new taxon for them. They are: 1) pronotum evenly convex, with subexplanate sides strongly narrowed from base; 2) elytra with widely explanate sides and more or less expressed longitudinal (double) rows of punctures on even surface; 3) dorsal pubescence conspicuous and consisting of two kinds of hairs (subrecumbent and moderately long ones; erect, very long ones, which are with stout and blunt apices, sometimes forming separated brushes of hairs and arranged in more or less expressed longitudinal rows on elytra), or hairs of the second kind partly reduced; 4) pronotal and elytral sides moderately shortly ciliate; 5) tibiae narrow and simple, protibia with rounded subapical angle, but meso- and metatibiae with a pair of subapical spines at outer subapical angle; 6) tarsomeres 1–3 weakly lobed with brushes of hairs; 7) antennal grooves distinctly convergent; 8) prosternal process extended as a pleat covering the middle of mesosternum; 9) posterior edge of metasternum slightly emarginate; 10) distance between mesocoxae subequal to, and that between metacoxae about twice more than that between procoxae; 11) submesocoxal lines deviating from posterior edge of mesocoxa only at outer angle of metasternum; 12) submetacoxal lines gently deviating before the middle of posterior edge of cavity and returning at outer part of cavity; 13) epipleura rather wide and nearly horizontal; 14) male pygidium subtruncate and anal sclerite exposed from beneath it; 15) ovipositor with fused and strongly modified sclerites of coxites, which are with a simple joined apex, lateral projections and raised styli or without the latter.

Comments to generic composition – The *Pocadius* complex of genera is recognized here as a provisional unit, because different members of it have much parallelism in structures and bionomy with the complexes of the genera *Ipidia*, *Soronia*, *Phenolia* and *Thalycra*, especially with the latter two. Some genera included in the *Pocadius* complex were considered with other possible relationship and another composition of the complexes (JELÍNEK 1982, 1999, AUDISIO & JELÍNEK 1993). Phylogenetic relationships between members of this complex as well as those between different com-

plexes should be studied in more detail and with an analysis of all body parts. The phylogenetic and cladistic models, such as the one proposed by AUDISIO & JELÍNEK (1993), can scarcely be recognized. At present the author is not ready to discuss in terms of apomorphy and plesiomorphy the configuration of the submesocoxal line, puncturation, pubescence and so on for the groups, which appear to have a rather long and complex historical development, maintaining a way of life close to the initial one for the subfamily as a whole. At least two members of the *Aethina* complex, derived from the *Pocadius* or *Thalycra* complexes, were found in the limestone sediments of the Lower Cretaceous (SORIANO & KIREJTSHUK, unpublished).

Diagnosis – This new genus is distinct from other genera of the *Pocadius* complex in the exposed male anal sclerite behind the subtruncate apex of pygidium and peculiar structure of ovipositor (although ovipositor of its members reminds of that in *Hebasculinus*, *Hebascus* and *Teichostethus*, while the more or less subtruncate apex of the male pygidium occurs in many representatives of *Physoronia* and *Pocadius*). The rather narrow and long penis trunk of the species of this new genus are quite characteristic and can diagnose this genus. Besides, it differs from most members of the complex in the comparatively small body size (2.3–3.1 mm) and labrum rather shortly exposed from under frons. The species of this new genus are particularly similar to some members of *Physoronia* (formerly regarded as subgenus *Physoronia* s. str., sensu JELÍNEK, 1999) and *Niliodes*. However, they can be distinguished, except for different male pygidium and ovipositor, from the first also by the less elongate and smaller body with shorter elytra, maximum width of pronotum at base, clearly convergent antennal grooves (besides, in contrast to the members of *Physoronia* s. str. sensu JELÍNEK, 1999, the pronotal and elytral sides of the species of *Kryzhanovskiella* gen. n. are comparatively narrowly subexplanate), and from the latter by the more elongate body (not transversely oval) with narrower pronotum and elytra as well as with gently vaulted elytral middle, subflattened prosternal process, subhorizontal epipleura, shorter and more compact antennal club. The species of *Kryzhanovskiella* gen. n. are distinct from the representatives of *Atarphia* in the more oval and markedly smaller body, pronotum with maximum width at base, subequal distances between pro- and mesocoxae, emarginated posterior edge of metasternum between metacoxae and structure of genitalia of both sexes. They also differ from the representatives of *Hebasculinus*, *Hebascus* and *Teichostethus* in the very gently sloping pronotal and elytral sides, much wider epipleura, clearly convergent antennal grooves, subequal distances between pro- and mesocoxae (mesocoxae are about as separated as procoxae, while those in *Hebasculinus*, *Hebascus* and *Teichostethus* are markedly more widely separated than procoxae), subtriangular and comparatively narrow (not strongly flattened) protibia, not so regularly seriate puncturation on elytra, and also from *Hebascus* in the apex of tegmen at most only shallowly excised. Besides, the elytra of *Hebasculinus*, *Hebascus* and *Teichostethus* are with more or less widely

rounded apices forming a clear sutural angle. This new genus differs from *Hyleopocadius* in the smaller body, maximum width of pronotum at its base, not very widely explanate pronotal and elytral sides, which are without long cilia, scarcely seriate elytral punctuation, lack of distinct ridge at anterior edge of metasternum and larger eyes. The species of the new genus differ from the *Omositoidea gigantea* SCHAUFUSS, 1892 in the smaller body size, more less distinct apices of posterior pronotal angles, much shorter cilia along pronotal and elytral sides, less distinct dorsal puncturation, more widely separated coxae in all pairs, narrower tarsi, and lack of sexual dimorphism in mesotibia. They are very distinct from *Pocadius* and *Pocadites* species in the evenly sloping pronotal and elytral sides, complete elytral apices, lack of distinct longitudinal rows of punctures, much wider and subhorizontal epipleura, not elevated middle of the prosternum and almost simple tibiae (without prominent subapical process as in *Pocadius* or dilated as *Pocadites*), and from *Pocadius* also in the more widely separated metacoxae, and from *Pocadites* in the emarginated posterior edge of the metasternum between the coxae as well as less widely separated meso- and metacoxae.

The genus *Pseudoplatychora* is a somewhat problematic member of the *Pocadius* complex. GROUVELLE was inclined to regard it as a synonym of *Atarphia* (GROUVELLE, 1913). However, JELÍNEK confirmed that *Pseudoplatychora convexiuscula* GROUVELLE, 1890 is distinct from *Atarphia*, and more similar to species of the genera *Axyra* ERICHSON, 1843, *Megauchenia* MACLEAY, 1825 and *Platychora* ERICHSON, 1843 than to any other groups; he regards its similarity to *Atarphia* as not “synapomorphic”. Nevertheless, in addition to the different genitalia in both sexes and the shape of the pygidium, the species of *Kryzhanovskiiella* gen. n. differ from *Pseudoplatychora convexiuscula* in the smaller and much shorter body size with less narrow pronotum, simple mentum, configuration of both submeso- and submetacoxal lines.

The antennal grooves of *Pocadius* are arcuately convergent rather than subparallel, but never as curved as in *Kryzhanovskiiella* gen. n. The tarsi of the new genus are rather narrow, although they are distinctly lobate as in many genera of the complex (but in contrast to simple those in *Pocadius*) or rather wider than those in *Pocadites*). The ciliation along the pronotal and elytral sides is strongly raised in *Omositoidea*, but usually very slightly developed (*Hebasculinus*, *Hebascus*, *Hyleopocadius*, *Niliodes*, some *Physoronia* and *Pocadius*) or (almost) invisible (in most cases).

NOTES ON PLACEMENT OF *OMOSITOIDEA* SCHAUFUSS, 1892

This genus can be regarded as a member of the *Pocadius* complex rather than any other of the complexes of the tribe Nitidulini, because it has the more or less distinctive shape of antennal club and a rather deeply excavate mesosternum. For example, the asymmetry of the antennal club of *Omositoidea gigantea* and *Physoronia taiwanensis* sp. n. is rather similar. Nevertheless, the placement of this taxon in this complex will be discussed in detail in a paper devoted to Nitidulidae from Dominican and Baltic amber (KIREJTSHUK & POINAR, in preparation). It is characterised by the comparatively large and very convex body, widely rounded anterior and posterior angles of pronotal, unique type of dorsal pubescence, very long cilia along pronotal and elytral sides, long and dense pubescence on legs, comparatively narrowly separated coxae in all pairs, peculiar sexual dimorphism in the shape of mesotibia and rather reduced puncturation. All of these characters clearly separate this taxon from other members of the complex. *Omositoidea gigantea* exhibits some similarity with species of the genus *Amphicrossus* ERICHSON, 1843 (Amphicrossinae). However, it can scarcely be regarded as a relative of this group, since the male hypopygidium is not excised medially at the apex and has no trace of a movable apical lobe, and also its mesosternum has no structures typical of *Amphicrossus* (such as a median plate and V-shaped sulci in the anterior half of the mesosternum, characteristic only of Amphicrossinae). The tibial spurs are rather short or reduced not only in *Omositoidea gigantea*, but also not infrequently among members of the *Pocadius* complex (*Atarphia*, *Hyleopocadius*, *Physoronia*, *Pocadites*).

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