



## The Plectogasterini QUENTIN & VILLIERS, 1969 of Gabun with revalidation of *Plectogaster puncticollis* BURGEON, 1947 and description of his hitherto unknown female. (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Cerambycinae)

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### Zusammenfassung

Eine Liste der aus Gabun bekannt gewordenen Plectogasterini mit Angaben über ihre Gesamtverbreitung wird vorgestellt. *Plectogaster puncticollis* Burgeon, 1947 wird als eigene Art erkannt, nicht als Synonym von *P. jordani* Heath, 1905 und als Art wiedeingesetzt. Das bisher unbekannte Weibchen wird nach einem Exemplar aus Gabun erstmals beschrieben.

### Abstract

A list of all Plectogasterini occurring in Gabun with their distribution is presented. *Plectogaster puncticollis* Burgeon, 1947 is recognised as a distinct species, not as a synonym of *P. jordani* Heath, 1905 and raised to species status again. The hitherto unknown female is described for the first time.

### Résumé

Une liste de tous les Plectogasterini recensés au Gabon avec leur distribution est présentée. *Plectogaster puncticollis* Burgeon, 1947 est considérée comme une espèce distincte, non plus comme un synonyme de *P. jordani* Heath, 1905 mais retrouvant son statut d'espèce valide. La femelle jusqu'à maintenant inconnue est pour la première fois décrite.

**Keywords.** Coleoptera, Cerambycidae, Plectogasterini, *Plectogaster puncticollis*, Gabun.

### Introduction

Waterhouse (1881) described the genus *Plectogaster* in the Dorcasomides (Lacordaire, 1869). Kraatz (1896) with *Cyrtocerus*, Heller (1899) with *Neoclosterus* and Lameere (1903) considered all of them as Prioninae. Boppe (1914) dispatched the tribe Dorcasomini in few other, genera *Megacoelus*, *Plectogaster*, *Neoclosterus* and *Haplogaster* in Psebiini with *Gahania* (Distant, 1907). In 1969, Quentin & Villiers created the tribe Plectogasterini with the genus *Plectogaster* and *Neoclosterus* and five news. Presently Plectogasterini consists of eight genera and 17 species.

All the species are african distributed between Sierra Leone and Zambia. Most of them lie in the central african rain forest.

Due to intensive collecting by the junior author during his stay in Gabun, we described in 2004 the hitherto unknown female of *Neoclosterus bernardii*. In the same time, the capture of small series of specimens allowed to establish this catalogue. Seven of the nine species cited from Gabun were collected in the «Monts de Cristal», Kingélé and Tchimbélé, two stations in old primary forest and in «Cap Esterias», near Libreville on the atlantic coast in secondary forest.

### Abbreviations of collections

IRSNB	Institut Royal des Sciences Naturelles de Belgique, Bruxelles, Belgium
MNHN	Musée National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris, France
MRAC	Musée Royal de l'Afrique centrale Tervuren, Belgium
SMTD	Staatliches Museum für Tierkunde, Dresden, Germany
APCG	Dr. Karl Adlbauer Sammlung, Graz, Autrich
DPCP	Norbert Delahaye Collection, Plaisir, France

### Tribus PLECTOGASTERINI Quentin & Villiers, 1969

#### Genus *Plectogaster* Waterhouse

*Plectogaster* Waterhouse, 1881: 429.

*Cyrtocerus* Kraatz, 1896: 154.

*Kraatziellus* Berg, 1898: 12.

#### *Plectogaster jordani* Heath

Fig. 1

*Plectogaster jordani* Heath, 1905: 76.

*Plectogaster jordani* Aurivillius 1912: 252.





*Plectogaster (Plectogaster) jordani* Boppe 1914: 71.  
*Plectogaster jordani* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 622.

#### Types

Allotype: «Congo» (Gabon?) (MNHN).

#### Locus typicus

Gold Coast (?).

#### Collected

30 ♂♂, 5 ♀♀: Kingélé and Tchimbélé (Monts de Cristal) between december and april (DPCP).

#### Size

20-55 mm.

#### Distribution

Benin, Cameroon, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa, Ivory Coast, Gabun, Ghana, Guinea, Liberia, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Togo.

*Plectogaster puncticollis* Burgeon nom. rev.

Fig. 2

*Plectogaster pectinicornis* Hintz, 1919: 603 nec Bates, 1881: 430.

*Plectogaster (Plectogaster) puncticollis* Burgeon, 1947: 68.

*Plectogaster jordani* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 622 nec Heath, 1905: 76.

#### Locus typicus

Molundu Süd-Kamerun (IRSNB).

#### Collected

5 ♂♂, 1 ♀: (10.IV.2003) Cap Esterias, Kingélé and Tchimbélé (Monts de Cristal), (APCG, DPCP).

#### Remarks

*Plectogaster puncticollis* was described by Burgeon 1947 from S-Cameroon after a male of 20 mm size, collected between December 1910 and January 1911 by Dr. Schultze.

On establishing and revising of the tribus Plectogasterini Quentin & Villiers 1969 synonymised *P. puncticollis* with *P. jordani* Heath, 1905, treating *P. puncticollis* as «forma minor» of the extremely variable species *P. jordani*.

For some time now there have been doubts on the correctness of this interpretation (e. g. T. Bouyer, in litteris) as till now from *P. jordani* ♂♂ and ♀♀ were known, yet from *P. puncticollis* only ♂♂. The finding of a ♀ of *P. puncticollis* verifies these doubts *P.*

*puncticollis* is a distinct species! Plectogasterini ♀♀ are generally found much more sporadically than ♂♂ in case presented here they are much more different from ♂♂ and very important for an exact identification and taxonomic classification.

♂♂ of *P. puncticollis* differ from ♂♂ of (now much less variable) *P. jordani* as follows:

Size 20-34 mm as opposed to 40-55 in *P. jordani*.

Surface of Pronotum rather evenly alveolate. In *P. jordani* it is much more unevenly and only partly (on the sides) alveolate. Thorns on the side are broadly conical, short and dull attenuate; mostly not or only slightly curved backwards; sometimes the points of the thorns are curved upwards. In *P. jordani* the thorns on the sides are distinctly longer and more slender, tapering acutely, distinctly curved backwards.

Colouration always darker as in *P. jordani*. The elytra are either uniformly black (as in the holotype and two other males from Cameroon) or black with a light brown patch on the shoulder and at the apex of each elytron this occurs in Gabun and represents possibly a subspecies of its own. Sometimes the two patches on the shoulder and on the apex can be connected by a small light brown line across the middle of the elytra; in one case this line is a somewhat broader but smaller than the dark area on the suture of the respective elytron. But the elytra are never light brown over the whole length this can be the case in *P. jordani*. In the latter the elytra are light brown, normally with a darkened suture as well as a marginal and apical border. The dark area on the suture does not reach the apical border and is not connected to it. The suture can also be completely light.

#### Description of the ♀

**Size.** 27 mm.

**Habit.** Small, delicate.

**Colouration.** Orange with the following obscured areas: In the middle of the pronotum an opaque patch which becomes very weak before the basal border, the basal border itself is distinctly dark, especially in the middle. Elytra and scutellum completely black. On the ventral side the anterior coxae, front and hind edge of the prosternum, meso- and metasternum and partly the abdomen are black (the middle of the mesosternal process is light). The borders between the first and second visible sternites and the concave area which is closely packed with bristles at the end of the abdomen are also light.

**Surface.** Head, pronotum and elytra rather evenly alveolate, only the two button-shaped elevations on the pronotum, the costae and the posterior area on





the elytra more shiny.

**Head.** Long and slender, eyes small, strongly emarginated. Mandibles long, slender, falciform. End segments of palps only slightly thickened. Antenne reaching the shoulders; antennomers from the third segment on acutely pointed, but less so as in *P. jordani* (but the different sizes of the compared females have to be considered).

**Pronotum.** Wider than long at the sidethorns but more slender than in *P. jordani*. The middle part is somewhat concave, in front of this on either side there is a small but distinctly shiny elevation. Anterior edge of the pronotum distinctly smaller than basal edge. Sidethorns broad at the base with only a slightly rounded upwardly curved tip.

**Scutellum.** Broadly rounded.

**Elytra.** Parallel broadly rounded at the end, each with three distinct costae, a fourth costa only slightly visible on the outer side; all of them leading to a more shiny area at the end of the elytra.

**Legs.** Short, not very robust.

**Ventral side.** Prosternal process small but broader than in *P. jordani*, distinctly visible over the whole length, not thinner in the middle and reduced to a very small lamella as it is in *P. jordani*.

#### Differential diagnosis

*Plectogaster puncticollis* differs from all three hitherto known *Plectogaster* species in its modest size, especially of the female and the very conspicuous colouration, even though both species *Plectogaster pectinicornis* (Bates, 1881) and *P. jordani* are frequently rather variable.

Furthermore *P. puncticollis* differs from *P. pectinicornis* in its alveolate structure of the pronotum (*P. pectinicornis* has a glossy and shiny pronotum). The ♂♂ of *P. pectinicornis* are 30-35 mm, the ♀♀ 42-52 mm long.

*P. puncticollis* differs further from *P. schoutedeni* Burgeon, 1947 in its overall alveolate punctuation. The ♂♂ are 40-45 mm long, the single known ♀ specimen of *P. schoutedeni* is 53 mm long. This species seems to show the least variability regarding its colouration.

The closest relative of *P. puncticollis* is *P. jordani*, the former differing from *P. jordani* in the ♀♀ longer head and much smaller eyes. The eyes are clearly more widely spaced from each other on the dorsal as well as the ventral side than in *P. jordani* ♀♀. Further differences are the more slender pronotum (as is the generally more slender habit) with a dull alveolate surface, but still with two shiny elevations situated next to each other in the anterior area of the pronotum. Furthermore, the prosternal process is not

smaller in the middle as is the case in *P. jordani*. The ♀♀ of *P. jordani* are between 37 and 54 mm long.

#### Distribution

Cameroon, Gabon, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa.

#### Genus *Neoclosterus* Heller

*Neoclosterus* Heller, 1899: 11.

#### *Neoclosterus curvipes* Heller

Fig. 3

*Neoclosterus curvipes* Heller, 1899: 12.

*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) curvipes* Lameere 1903: 50.

*Neoclosterus curvipes* Aurivillius 1912: 252.

*Neoclosterus robustus* Boppe, 1912: 96.

*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) robustus* Boppe 1914: 67.

*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) crampeli* Boppe, 1914: 67.

*Neoclosterus curvipes* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 628.

#### Locus typicus

Monts Togo (SMTD).

#### Collected

3 ♂♂: Kingélé (27.X.2002 & 3.VI.2003) and Tchimbélé (17.IX.03) (Monts de Cristal), (DPCP).

#### Size

38-50 mm.

#### Distribution

Cameroon, Republic Centrafricaine, Congo-Brazzaville, Congo-Kinshasa, Ivory Coast, Gabun, Ghana, Sierra Leone, Togo.

#### *Neoclosterus bernardii* Quentin & Villiers

Fig. 4

*Neoclosterus bernardii* Quentin & Villiers, 1969: 630.

*Neoclosterus bernardii* Adlbauer & Delahaye 2004: 14.

#### Locus typicus

Ipassa, Gabon (MNHN).

#### Collected

20 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀: (8.VI.2002 – 15.XI.2003) Kingélé (Monts de Cristal), (APCG, DPCP).

**Size**

38-48 mm.

**Distribution**

Ivory Coast (Fresco, E Sassandra, VI. 2004, 3 ♀♀ in Coll. A. Ture and in Coll. Adlbauer), Gabun.

*Neoclosterus lujae* Boppe

Fig. 5

*Neoclosterus lujae* Boppe, 1912: 95.*Neoclosterus ferranti* Boppe, 1912: 96.*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) lujae* Boppe 1914: 64.*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) lujai* Burgeon 1947: 64.*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) lujai* var. *ferranti* Burgeon 1947: 65.*Neoclosterus lujae* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 631.**Locus typicus**

Sanaga Cameroun (IRSNB).

**Collected**

50 Ex.: Kingélé and Tchimbélé (Monts de Cristal), (APCG, DPCP).

**Size**

32-60 mm.

**Distribution**

Angola, Cameroon, Republic Centrafricaine, Congo-Kinshasa, Ivory Coast, Gabun, Togo.

*Neoclosterus argodi* (Belon)

Fig. 6

*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) argodi* Belon, 1913: 83.*Neoclosterus argodi* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 634.**Locus typicus**

Haut Ogoué, Gabon (MNHN).

**Collected**

20 ♂♂, 1 ♀: (29.V.2004), Kingélé and Tchimbélé (Monts de Cristal), (APCG, DPCP).

**Size**

30-39 mm.

**Distribution**

Cameroon, Congo-Kinshasa, Ivory Coast, Gabun, Ghana, Guinea.

*Neoclosterus opacipennis* Boppe

Fig. 7

*Neoclosterus opacipennis* Boppe, 1912: 95.*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) opacipennis* Boppe 1914: 62.*Neoclosterus opacipennis* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 636.**Locus typicus**

Kondué, Congo Kinshasa (Mus. Luxembourg).

**Collected**

10 ♂♂: Kingélé (Monts de Cristal), (APCG, DPCP).

**Size**

26-39 mm.

**Distribution**

Cameroon, Congo-Kinshasa, Gabun.

Genus *Scatogenus* Quentin & Villiers*Scatogenus* Quentin & Villiers, 1969: 638.*Scatogenus mulleri* (Burgeon)

Fig. 8

*Plectogaster mulleri* Burgeon, 1947: 66.*Plectogaster (Plectogaster) mulleri* Ferreira & Veiga Ferreira 1959: 184.*Scatogenus mulleri* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 639.**Locus typicus**

Congo belge (MRAC).

**Collected**

Non.

**Size**

22-24 mm.

**Distribution**

Congo-Kinshasa, Gabun.

Genus *Chasmogaster* Quentin & Villiers, 1969*Chasmogaster* Quentin & Villiers, 1969: 641.*Chasmogaster gabonensis* (Burgeon)

Fig. 9

*Plectogaster (Neoclosterus) gabonensis* Burgeon, 1947: 66.*Chasmogaster gabonensis* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 643.





**Locus typicus**

Bas-Ogooué, Gabon (IRSNB).

**Collected**

Non.

**Size**

25-29 mm.

**Distribution**

Cameroon, Gabun.

Genus *Cheilacanthus* Quentin & Villiers  
*Cheilacanthus* Quentin & Villiers, 1969: 643.

*Cheilacanthus severini* (Lameere)

Fig. 10

*Plectogaster* (*Neoclosterus*) *severini* Lameere, 1903: 51.  
*Neoclosterus severini* Aurivillius 1912: 252.  
*Plectogaster* (*Neoclosterus*) *severinii* Ferreira & Veiga  
Ferreira 1959: 187.  
*Cheilacanthus severini* Quentin & Villiers 1969: 644.

**Locus typicus**

Gabon (MNHN).

**Collected**

20 ♂♂, 1 ♀: (24.I.2003), Kingélé & Tchimbélé  
(Monts de Cristal), (APCG, DPCP).

**Size**

31-61 mm.

**Distribution**

Angola, Cameroon, Republic Centrafricaine,  
Congo-Kinshasa, Gabun.

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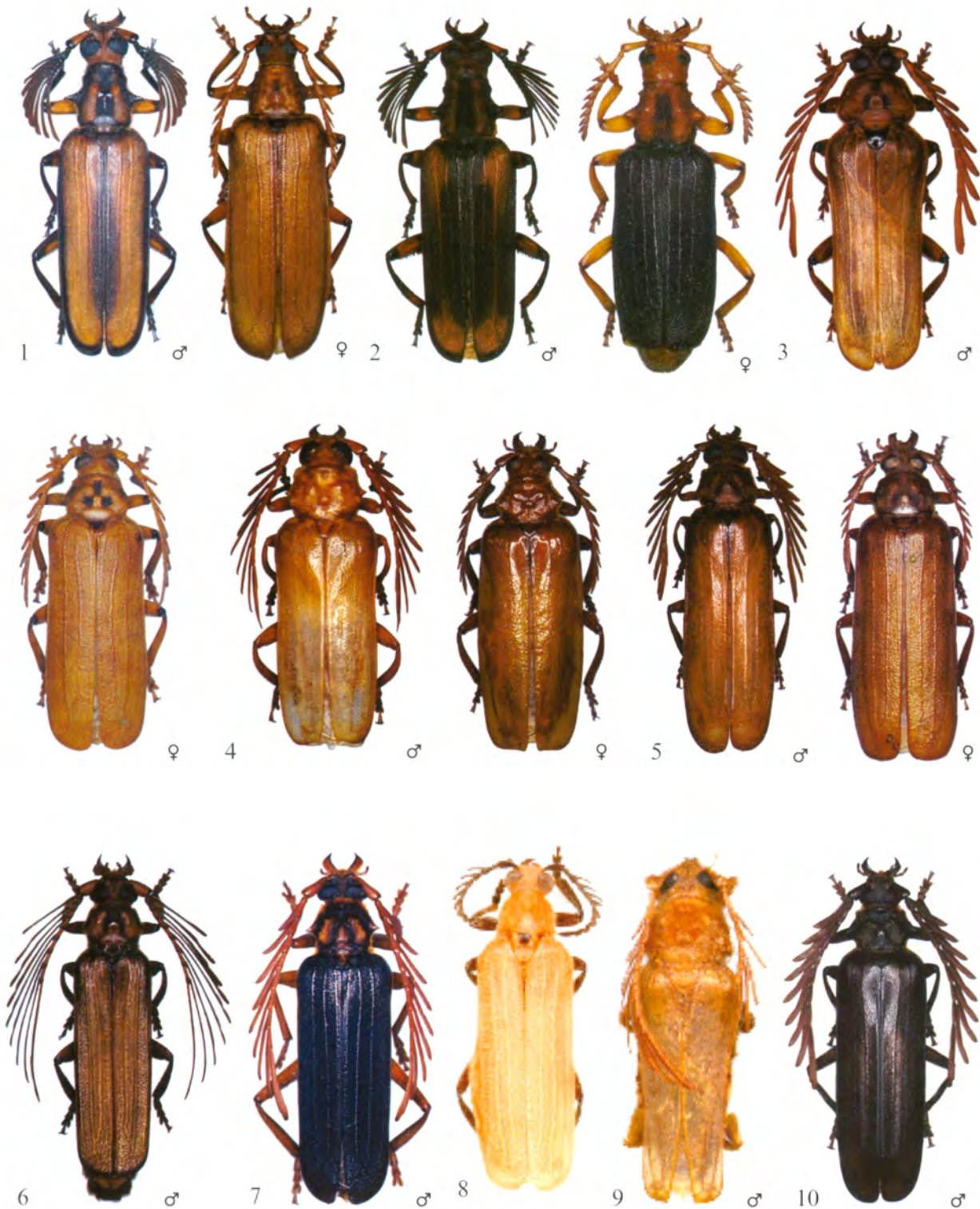


Abb. 1-10 Plectogastrini: (1) *Plectogaster jordani* (45-54 mm), (2) *Plectogaster puncticollis* (27-34 mm), (3) *Neoclosterus curvipes* (39 mm), (4) *Neoclosterus bernardii* (43 mm) (5) *Neoclosterus lujae* (40-45 mm) (6) *Neoclosterus argodi* (37 mm), (7) *Neoclosterus opacipennis* (33 mm), (8) *Scatogenus mulleri* (24 mm – Belinga (Gabon) MNHN), (9) *Chasmogaster gabonensis* (Holotype-Bas Ogooué (Gabon) IRSNB), (10) *Cheilacanthus severini* (50 mm). Fotos: N. Delahaye and K. Adlbauer