

**Contributions to the knowledge of the ‘*Staphylinus*-complex’  
of China (Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Staphylinini).  
Part 22. The genus *Tasgius* Stephens, 1829, Section 1**

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**Abstract.** The paper deals with the species of the subgenus *Tasgius* s. str. of the genus *Tasgius* Stephens, 1829, known to occur at present on the territory of the People’s Republic of China. *Tasgius praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915 is redescribed and a lectotype is designated for it. Three species are described as new: *T. pugio* sp. nov. (Gansu), *T. congener* sp. nov. (Gansu) and *T. venustus* sp. nov. (Xinjiang). Each species is described, illustrated and all available distributional and bionomic data are given.

**Key words.** Coleoptera, Staphylinidae, Staphylininae, *Tasgius*, taxonomy, new species, redescription, description, distribution, mainland China, Palaearctic Region

### Introduction

This is the first paper dealing with the species of the subgenus *Tasgius* s. str. of the genus *Tasgius* Stephens, 1829 of the People’s Republic of China. For the concept of the subgenera of *Tasgius* see SMETANA & DAVIES (2000). Previously only one species, *T. praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915, was known from mainland China. Three additional, new species are described in this paper. It is expected that further species of the subgenus will be found in mainland China.

### Materials and methods

The acronyms used in the text when referring to the deposition of the specimens are as follows:

- ASC Aleš Smetana Collection, Ottawa, Canada;
- BMNH Natural History Museum, London, U.K. (M. Barclay);
- FMNH Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois (Jim Boone, Alfred Newton);
- MHNG Muséum d’Histoire Naturelle, Genève, Switzerland (Dr. G. Cuccodoro);
- NHMW Naturhistorisches Museum, Wien, Austria (H. Schillhammer);
- NMPC National Museum, Praha, Czech Republic (Jiří Hájek).

The measurement ratios given in the descriptions are average values when more than one specimen was available. Label data for holotypes and allotypes are presented in full. The text on separate labels is denoted by a slash.

## Taxonomy

### *Tasgius (Tasgius) praetorius* (Bernhauer, 1915)

(Figs. 1–9)

*praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915: 73 (*Staphylinus*, subg. *Tasgius*); SCHEERPELTZ (1933): 1400 (*Staphylinus*; catalog); COIFFAIT (1964): 83 (*Tasgius*; subg. *Paratasgius*); SMETANA (1975): 173 (*Ocypus*; subg. *Tasgius*); SMETANA & DAVIES (2000): 46 (*Tasgius*; subg. *Tasgius*); HERMAN (2001): 3550 (*Tasgius*); SMETANA (2004): 686 (*Tasgius*; subg. *Tasgius*; catalog).

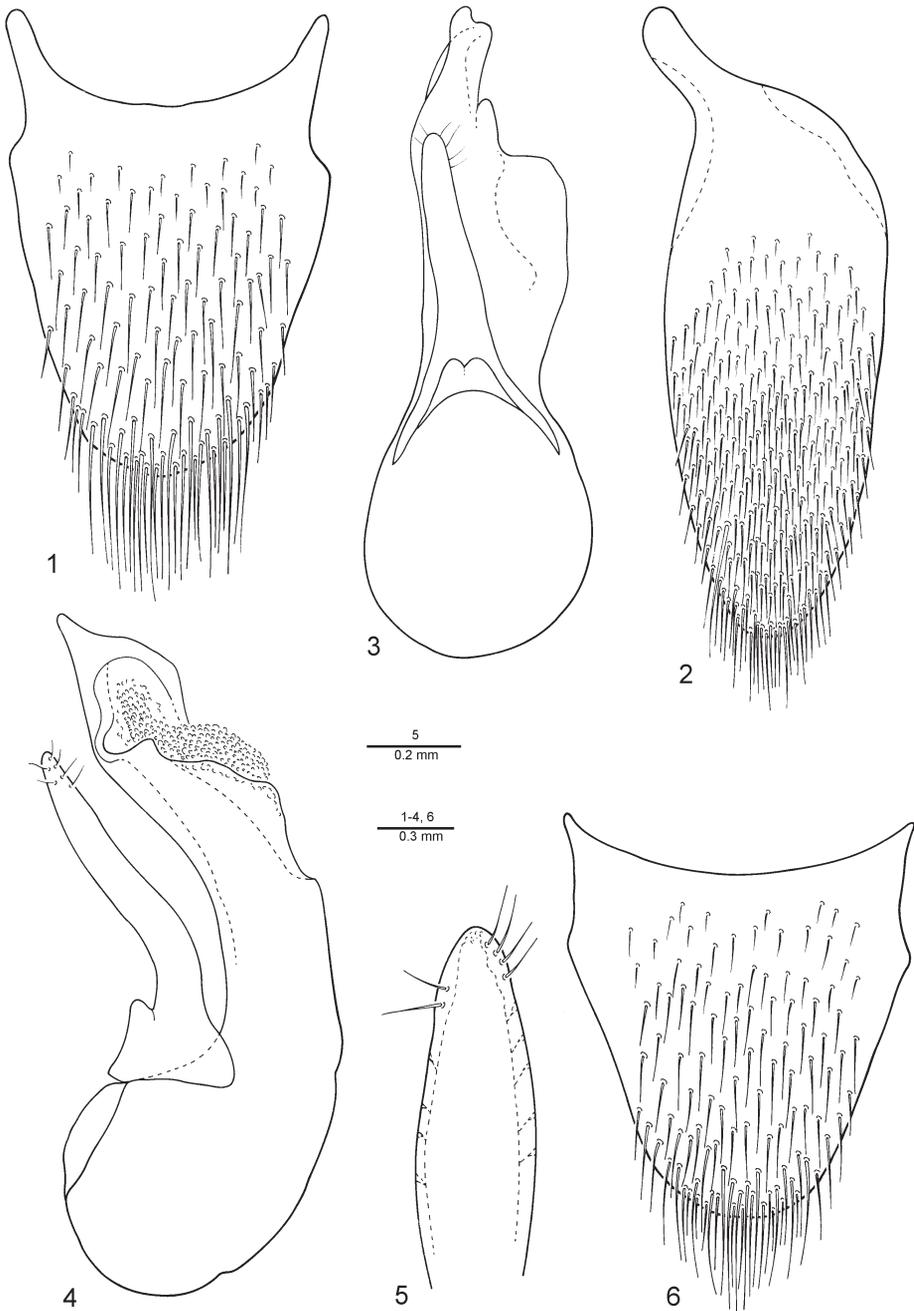
**Type locality.** China.

**Type material.** LECTOTYPE: ♂, “Singley China”/“Bang-Haas” [Bernhauer’s handwriting] / “praetorius Bernh. Typus” [Bernhauer’s handwriting] / “Chicago NHMus M. Bernhauer Collection” / “Lectotypus ♂ *Staphylinus praetorius* Bh. K. Grebennikov des. 2001” [handwritten on red label] / “*Tasgius* (s.str.) *praetorius* (Bh.) ♂ K. A. Grebennikov det. 2001” / “Lectotype *Staphylinus praetor* Bernhauer, 1915, designated by A. Smetana 2010”. PARALECTOTYPE: ♀, “Singley China”/“Bang-Haas” [Bernhauer’s handwriting] / “praetorius Bernh. Cotypus” [Bernhauer’s handwriting] / “Chicago NHMus M. Bernhauer Collection” / “Paralectotypus ♀ *Staphylinus praetorius* Bh. K. Grebennikov des. 2001” [handwritten on red label] / “*Tasgius* (s.str.) *praetorius* (Bh.) ♀ K. A. Grebennikov det. 2001” / “Paralectotype *Staphylinus praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915, designated by A. Smetana 2010”.

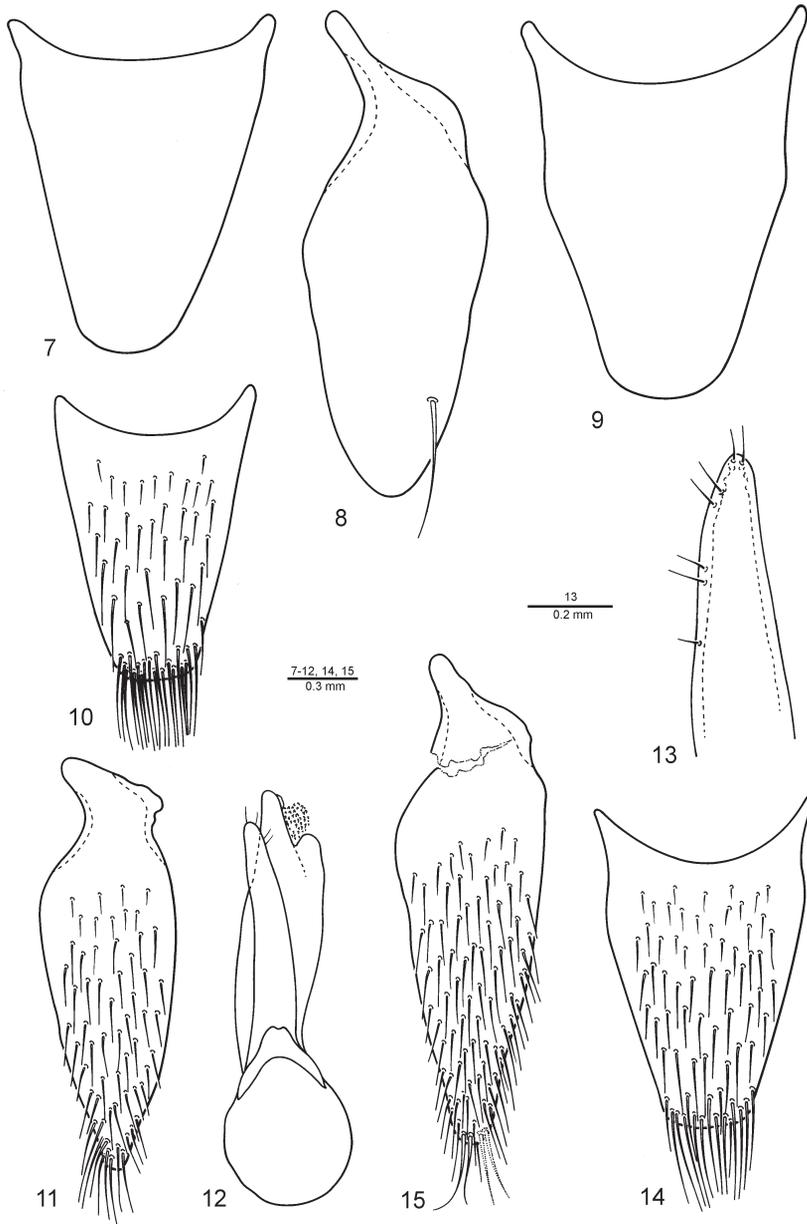
BERNHAUER (1915: 73) described the species from an unknown number of specimens. The Bernhauer collection, housed in The Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago, Illinois, contains 6 specimens under the name *Staphylinus praetorius*, but only the first two are part of the original series (see BERNHAUER 1915: 73). The two specimens of the original series were studied by K. A. Grebennikov, who designated them as a lectotype and paralectotype, respectively. However, these designations are not valid, since they were never published. Grebennikov also dissected the male specimen, unfortunately seriously damaging sternite 9 and tergite 10 of the genital segment. Only apical portion of sternite 9 is remaining and tergite 10 was split longitudinally in two halves. The parts were remounted in Canada balsam on a transparent plate and attached to the specimen. I cleaned, dissected and remounted the female specimen on a plate. The dissected sclerites of the genital segment were mounted in Canada balsam on transparent plate and attached to the specimen. The specimens are in fair shape, the male specimen is missing all but two basal left antennomeres; the female specimen is missing all but two basal right antennomeres, and all but four basal left antennomeres. As mentioned above, the lectotype and paralectotype designations by K. A. Grebennikov are not valid, therefore, in order to preserve the stability of nomenclature of the group, I designate the male specimen, bearing labels as above, as the lectotype of *Staphylinus praetorius* and the appropriate labels have been attached to both specimens.

**Additional material studied.** CHINA: BEIJING: “CHINA: B.M. 1980–491 P.M. Hammond / PEKING: Wofuci 5.IX.80”, 1 ♀ (BMNH). GANSU: “China (Gansu) Umg. Xiahe 3000–3200 m 24.VI.–26.VI.1993 Heinz leg.”, 1 ♂ (ASC); “Lanchowfu Kansu”, 1 ♂ (FMNH). HEBEI: “Tientsin. 15.6.06. F.M. Thomson. 1907–200.”, 1 ♂ (FMNH). HUBEI: “Hupe Jchang”, 1 ♀ (FMNH). QINGHAI: “CHINA: Qinghai province, DULANSI [lamasery], 37°00.7–02.0'N 098°37.4–37.5'E 3245–3730 m, 10.VII.2005, J. Hájek, D. Král & J. Růžička leg.”, 3 ♂♂ 1 ♀ (ASC, NMPC); “CHINA: Qinghai province, DULANSI [lamasery], 37°32.4–33.0'N 100°05.3–06.0'E 3505–3840 m, 11.–12.VII. 2005, J. Hájek, D. Král & J. Růžička leg.”, 2 ♂♂ 1 ♀ (ASC, NMPC). SHANXI: “China, centr. Shanxi, Chao Shan, 37.1'N 112.4'E 25km SE Pingyao 4.–5.VII. 2001 Jaroslav Turna leg.”, 1 ♂ (ASC). NORTH KOREA: “Pingan Korea”, 1 ♂ (FMNH).

**Redescription.** Black, head and pronotum shiny; pubescence of dorsal side of body piceous-black; maxillary and labial palpi piceous-black, with apices of segments more or less paler; antennae dark brunneous, first three segments black, following segments becoming paler, outer segments greyish-brown; legs piceous-black to black with paler tarsi. Head of rounded quadrangular shape, with entirely rounded posterior angles, wider than long (ratio 1.44),



Figs. 1–6. *Tasgius praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915. 1 – tergite 10 of male genital segment; 2 – sternite 9 of male genital segment; 3 – aedeagus, ventral view; 4 – aedeagus, lateral view; 5 – apical portion of underside of paramere; 6 – tergite 10 of female genital segment.



Figs. 7–15. 7–9 – *Tasgius praetorius* Bernhauer, 1915. 7 – tergite 10 of male genital segment; 8 – sternite 9 of male genital segment (showing large apical seta); 9 – tergite 10 of female genital segment (setation in Figs. 7–9 not shown). 10–13 – *Tasgius pugio* sp. nov. 10 – tergite 10 of male genital segment; 11 – sternite 9 of male genital segment; 12 – aedeagus, ventral view; 13 – apical portion of underside of paramere. 14, 15 – *Tasgius congener* sp. nov. 14 – tergite 10 of male genital segment; 15 – sternite 9 of male genital segment.

eyes moderately large, rather flat, tempora about as long as to slightly shorter than eyes from above (ratio 0.88); disc of head and front portion of head sparsely and rather finely punctate, with some extremely fine intermixed punctures, vertex with variably large and shaped impunctate area, punctation becoming gradually somewhat coarser and denser on posteriolateral portions of head, tempora rather densely punctate and pubescent; interspaces between punctures without any microsculpture, highly shiny, polished. Antenna rather long, segment three longer than segment two (ratio 1.28), segments four to eight markedly longer than wide, gradually becoming shorter, segments nine and ten slightly longer than wide, last segment shorter than two preceding segments combined. Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 1.22), usually vaguely narrowed posteriad, with moderately rounded base, narrow marginal groove disappearing downward at about posterior third of pronotal length; disc of pronotum with entire impunctate midline; punctation similar to that on head, but in general finer, variably irregularly spaced, large area in front of anterior angles quite densely punctate and pubescent, interspaces between punctures on disc without any microsculpture, highly shiny, polished. Scutellum entirely, finely and densely punctate and pubescent, interspaces between punctures without appreciable microsculpture. Elytra moderately long, at suture about as long as to vaguely longer (ratio 1.08), at sides slightly longer than pronotum at midline (ratio 1.14); punctation very fine, very dense, punctures slightly asperate, surface of elytra appearing rather dull; transverse interspaces between punctures mostly about as large as diameters of punctures, lacking any microsculpture, pubescence very dense. Wings markedly reduced, nonfunctional. Abdomen with fifth visible tergite lacking pale apical seam of palisade setae; tergite two (in front of first visible tergite) punctate and pubescent along apical margin and on each lateral portion; bases of first three visible tergites with punctation similar to that on elytra, punctation becoming distinctly finer and denser toward apical margin of each tergite, and in general toward apex of abdomen; interspaces between punctures with traces of extremely fine, rudimentary microsculpture.

**Male.** Sternite 8 with rather narrow, moderately deep, obtusely triangular medioapical emargination. Genital segment with tergite 10 as in Fig. 1, with widely arcuate apex, with densely set, variably long setae at and near apical margin, otherwise with short, moderately dense setation. Sternite 9 with rather short, narrow basal portion, apex of apical portion arcuate, apical two thirds of sternite quite densely setose (Fig. 2). Aedoeagus of characteristic shape, as in Figs. 3–5; median lobe in ventral view abruptly narrowed into narrow, complex apical portion with slightly bidentate apex, apical portion of median lobe in both lateral views of slightly irregular, triangular shape; paramere situated on median lobe asymmetrically, narrowly fusiform, with narrowly arcuate apex by far not reaching apex of median lobe; underside of paramere without pigmented sensory peg setae, with several variably long apical setae, situated as in Fig. 5.

**Female.** Tergite 10 of genital segment broadly triangular, evenly narrowed toward broadly arcuate apex, with densely set, variably long setae at and near apical margin, otherwise with short, moderately dense setation (Fig. 6).

Length 17.0–18.0 mm.

**Bionomics.** Nothing is known about the collection circumstances of the specimens studied, except for those collected in Qinghai province at Dulansi lamasery. They bear the following collecting data: “individually under stones, in excrements and on vegetation; spring; alpine meadows and pastures around the lamasery and in the nearby valley”.

**Geographical distribution.** *Tasgius praetorius* is at present known from Beijing municipality, Gansu, Hebei, Hubei, Qinghai and Shanxi provinces in mainland China, and from North Korea.

**Recognition and comments.** *Tasgius praetorius* is at present the largest species of the subgenus *Tasgius* in mainland China. It differs from the two similar species (*T. pugio* sp. nov. and *T. congener* sp. nov.), in addition to the differently shaped aedeagus (Figs. 3, 12, 16), and the larger size, by the partially punctate and pubescent abdominal tergite two (in front of the first visible tergite), which is entirely punctate and pubescent in the two latter species.

Some of the specimens studied have the male genital segment with tergite 10 smaller and narrower (Fig. 7) and less setose at and near apical margin, sternite 9 smaller, less elongate, with apex narrowly arcuate (Fig. 8). The aedeagus of these specimens is slightly smaller, and tergite 10 of female genital segment is narrower (Fig. 9). There is a chance that two taxa are here combined under this name. However, more material is needed to resolve this matter properly.

The sternite 9 of the male genital segment of *T. praetorius* is unusual in that it is bearing a single large seta on apical portion, either on right or left side (Fig. 8).

***Tasgius (Tasgius) pugio* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 10–13)

**Type locality.** People's Republic of China, Gansu, Wagatan Timber, ca. 25 km E Xiahe.

**Type material.** HOLOTYPE: ♂, CHINA: GANSU: "China (Gansu) ca 25 km E Xiahe 2700–2900m (Wagatan Timber) 30.VII.-2.VIII.1993 Heinz leg." (ASC, to be eventually deposited in MHNG). PARATYPE: ♂, CHINA: GANSU: "China, Gansu prov. 120 km SW Lanzhou PONGGARTANG 30.VI.-2.VII.1992 Jaroslav Turna leg." (NHMW).

**Description.** Black, head and pronotum shiny; maxillary and labial palpi piceous-black, last segment of maxillary palpus paler; antennae dark brunneous, first three segments black, following segments becoming paler, outer segments greyish-brown; legs piceous-black to black with paler tarsi. Head of rounded quadrangular shape, with entirely rounded, not apparent posterior angles, wider than long (ratio 1.22), eyes moderately large, flat, tempora longer than eyes from above (ratio 1.20), disc of head and front portion of head sparsely and rather finely punctate, with some extremely fine intermixed punctures, vertex with variably large and shaped impunctate area, punctuation becoming gradually somewhat coarser and denser on posteriolateral portions of head, tempora rather densely punctate and pubescent; interspaces between punctures without any microsculpture, highly shiny, polished. Antenna moderately long, segment three longer than segment two (ratio 1.20), segments four to eight longer than wide, gradually becoming shorter, segments nine and ten about as long as wide, last segment shorter than two preceding segments combined. Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 1.20), parallelsided, with moderately rounded base, narrow marginal groove disappearing downward at about posterior third of pronotal length; disc of pronotum with entire impunctate midline; punctuation similar to that on head, but in general finer, sparser and variably, irregularly spaced, interspaces between punctures on disc highly shiny, polished. Scutellum moderately densely, finely punctate and pubescent, interspaces between punctures with rudimentary, extremely fine microsculpture. Elytra rather short, at suture shorter (ratio 0.78), at sides vaguely shorter (ratio 0.95) as pronotum at midline; punctuation very fine, sparse, transverse interspaces between punctures mostly distinctly larger than diameters of punctures, lacking any microsculpture.

Wings reduced to minute stumps. Abdomen with fifth visible tergite lacking pale apical seam of palisade setae; tergite two (in front of first visible tergite) entirely punctate and pubescent; punctuation of tergites coarser than that on elytra, gradually becoming finer and sparser toward apical margin of each tergite, and in general toward apex of abdomen, interspaces between punctures with extremely fine microsculpture of short transverse striae.

**Male.** Sternite 8 with moderately wide and deep, obtusely triangular medioapical emargination. Genital segment with tergite 10 rather narrow, evenly narrowed toward subtruncate apex, with densely set, variably long setae at and near apical margin, otherwise with short, moderately dense setation (Fig. 10); sternite 9 rather elongate, with short basal portion, with apex of apical portion narrowly arcuate (Fig. 11). Aedoeagus as in Figs. 12, 13; median lobe slightly asymmetrical, with short, asymmetrically located apical portion shaped as in Fig. 12, apical portion in right lateral view of obtuse triangular shape; paramere situated on median lobe asymmetrically, narrow, elongate, shaped as in Figs. 12, 13, with narrowly arcuate apex not quite reaching apex of median lobe; underside of paramere without sensory peg setae but with several variably long apical setae, situated as in Fig. 13.

**Female** unknown.

Length 14.0–15.0 mm (abdomen extended, see Comments).

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is the Latin noun *pugio*, *-onis* (a dagger), in apposition. It refers to the shape of the paramere.

**Bionomics.** The specimens were taken from pitfall traps, but nothing is known about the habitats the traps were set in.

**Geographical distribution.** *Tasgius pugio* sp. nov. is at present known from two localities, both located about 120 km SW of Lanzhou.

**Recognition and comments.** *Tasgius pugio* sp. nov. may be easily distinguished from *T. praetorius*, in addition to the distinctly smaller size and the differently shaped aedoeagus (Figs. 3, 12), by the entirely punctate and pubescent abdominal tergite two (in front of the first visible tergite). This character state is shared with *T. congener* sp. nov., but the latter may be easily distinguished by the differently shaped aedoeagus.

Both specimens of the original series, particularly the paratype, are mounted with quite extended abdomen. The actual size is estimated at 11.0–12.0 mm.

The paratype is missing four terminal segments of right antenna, and three terminal segments of left antenna.

The correct spelling of the locality Ponggartang on the locality label is Panggurtang.

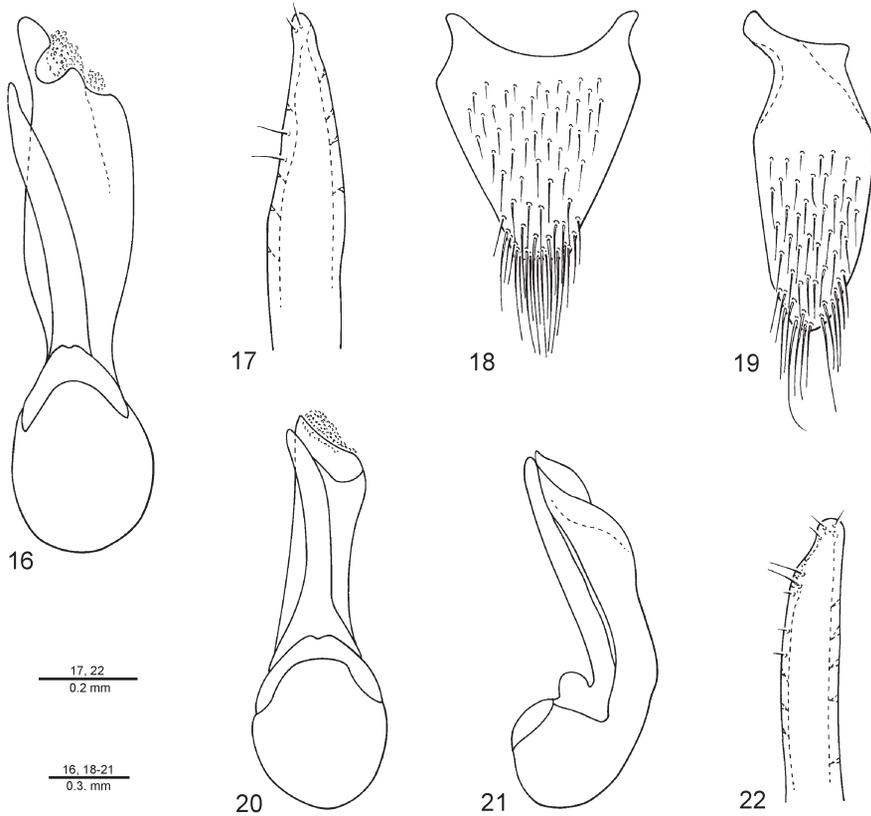
### *Tasgius (Tasgius) congener* sp. nov.

(Figs. 14–17)

**Type locality.** People's Republic of China, Gansu, Xinlongshan b. Yuzhong (Yangzhai).

**Type material.** HOLOTYPE: ♂, CHINA: GANSU: "China (Gansu) Xinlongshan b. Yuzhong 2500–3000 m (loc. Yangzhai) 22.–26.VII.1993 Heinz leg." (ASC, to be eventually deposited in MHNG).

**Description.** In all character states similar to *T. pugio* sp. nov.; different by a few external characters, but particularly by the differently shaped aedoeagus. Body size somewhat larger, body form somewhat stouter; head larger with eyes smaller (ratio length of tempora / length of eyes = 1.43, respective ratio in *T. pugio* sp. nov. = 1.20).



Figs. 16–22. 16–17 – *Tasgius congener* sp. nov. 16 – aedeagus, ventral view; 17 – apical portion of underside of paramere. 18–22 – *Tasgius venustus* sp. nov. 18 – tergite 10 of male genital segment; 19 – sternite 9 of male genital segment; 20 – aedeagus, ventral view; 21 – aedeagus, lateral view; 22 – apical portion of underside of paramere.

**Male.** Medioapical emargination of sternite 8 not appreciably different from that of *T. pugio* sp. nov. Genital segment with tergite 10 somewhat larger, but not appreciably different from that of *T. pugio* sp. nov. (Fig. 14); sternite 9 of similar shape as that of *T. pugio* sp. nov., but longer, more densely setose and with two pairs of strong apical setae (Fig. 15). Aedeagus as in Figs. 16, 17, similar to that of *T. pugio* sp. nov., but larger, apical portion of median lobe of different asymmetrical shape; paramere situated on median lobe quite asymmetrically, markedly longer and narrower than that of *T. pugio* sp. nov., with acute apex by far not reaching apex of median lobe; underside of paramere without sensory peg setae but with variably long apical setae, situated as in Fig. 17.

**Female** unknown.

Length 15.0 mm.

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is the Latin noun *congener*, *-eris*, masculinum (of the same race or kind) in apposition. It refers to the similarity of the species with *T. pugio* sp. nov.

**Bionomics.** The holotype was taken from a pitfall trap, but nothing is known about the habitats the trap was set in.

**Geographical distribution.** *Tasgius congener* sp. nov. is at present known only from the type locality in Gansu, southeast of Lanzhou.

**Recognition and comments.** *Tasgius congener* sp. nov. may only be confused with *T. pugio* sp. nov., with which it shares the character state of the second abdominal tergite (in front of first visible tergite) entirely punctate and pubescent, but it may be easily distinguished by the differently shaped aedeagus (Figs. 12, 16).

The holotype is missing left antenna.

***Tasgius (Tasgius) venustus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 18–23)

**Type locality.** People's Republic of China, Xinjiang, Badang Mt. Range, right tributary to Kuga river, 3200 m a.s.l.

**Type material.** HOLOTYPE: ♂, CHINA: XINJIANG: "CHINA NW-Xinjiang Badan Mt. Range, 3200m right trib. to Kuga riv. 42°31'N 83°08'E" / "16.–17.7.2008 leg. J. Kaláb alpine meadows, screes" (NHMW). PARATYPES: CHINA: XINJIANG: same data as holotype, 1 ♂ (ASC); "N slope of Tian Shan mts. Road Kuqa-Bayanbulak 50km SW BAYANBULAK, ca 2800m, 10.VII.1993, Jaroslav Turna leg.", 2 ♂♂ (ASC, NHMW).

**Description.** Head, pronotum and abdomen black, tergite two (in front of first visible tergite), apical margin of fifth visible tergite, sixth visible tergite and genital segment brunneo-rufous; elytra brunneo-rufous; pubescence of entire dorsal surface of body testaceous; mandibles dark rufo-brunneous, darkened toward apices; maxillary and labial palpi testaceous, antennae dark brunneous with first three segments rufo-brunneous, legs brunneo-rufous. Head of rounded quadrangular shape, with entirely rounded, not apparent posterior angles, wider than long (ratio 1.23), eyes small, flat, tempora considerably longer than eyes from above (ratio 1.82), disc of head and front portion of head quite sparsely and finely punctate, with some extremely fine intermixed punctures, punctuation becoming gradually somewhat coarser and denser on postriolateral portions of head, interspaces between punctures without any microsculpture, highly shiny, polished. Antenna moderately long, segment three longer than segment two (ratio 1.25) segments four to eight longer than wide, gradually becoming shorter, segments nine and ten about as long as wide, last segment shorter than two preceding segments combined. Pronotum longer than wide (ratio 1.30), parallelsided, with moderately



Fig. 23. *Tasgius venustus* sp. nov. Habitus. Photo: E. Jendek.

rounded base, narrow marginal groove disappearing downward at about posterior third of pronotal length; disc of pronotum with entire impunctate midline; punctation similar to that on head, but in general finer, sparser and variably, irregularly spaced, interspaces between punctures on disc highly shiny, polished. Scutellum very finely, moderately densely, punctate and pubescent, interspaces between punctures with rudimentary, extremely fine microsculpture. Elytra rather short, at suture slightly shorter than (ratio 0.88), at sides vaguely shorter than (ratio 0.94) to as long as pronotum at midline; punctation moderately fine and dense; transverse interspaces between punctures mostly about as large as diameters of punctures, lacking any microsculpture, pubescence dense. Wings reduced to nonfunctional stumps. Abdomen with fifth visible tergite lacking pale apical seam of palisade setae; tergite two (in front of first visible tergite) entirely punctate and pubescent; punctation of tergites coarser than that on elytra, gradually becoming finer and sparser toward apical margin of each tergite, and in general toward apex of abdomen, interspaces between punctures with extremely fine, rudimentary microsculpture.

**Male.** Sternite 8 with narrow, rather shallow, obtusely triangular medioapical emargination. Genital segment with tergite 10 evenly narrowed toward broadly subtruncate apex, setose as in Fig. 18; sternite 9 with narrow basal portion and with apex of apical portion narrowly arcuate, setose as in Fig. 19. Aedoeagus as in Figs. 20–22, rather simple; median lobe with short, asymmetrically located apical portion with acute apex; paramere situated on median lobe asymmetrically, narrow, elongate, shaped as in Fig. 20, with narrowly arcuate apex not quite reaching apex of median lobe (Fig. 21); underside of paramere without sensory peg setae but with several variably long apical setae, situated as in Fig. 22.

**Female.** Unknown.

Length 13.0–14.0 mm (abdomen extended, see Comments).

**Etymology.** The specific epithet is the Latin adjective *venustus*, *-a*, *-um* (charming, cute). It refers to the general appearance of the species.

**Bionomics.** The specimens were taken from pitfall traps. Those in Badan Range were set in alpine habitat (3200 m a.s.l.) of meadows and screes. No details are known for traps set 50 km SW Bayanbulak, except that they were set at lower elevation of 2800 m a.s.l.

**Geographical distribution.** *Tasgius venustus* sp. nov. is at present known from two localities in northwestern Tibet (Xinjiang).

**Recognition and comments.** Due to its small size and distinctive coloration, *T. venustus* sp. nov. cannot be confused with any other species of *Tasgius* s. str.

All specimens of the original series were mounted with quite extended abdomens (see above). The actual size is estimated at 8.0–10.0 mm.

### Acknowledgments

I thank all colleagues, who supported my work by kindly putting the material in their care at my disposition. Their names are in the paragraph Material and methods. I thank Eduard Jendek (Ottawa, Canada) for producing the color habitus photograph.

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