Munis Entomology & Zoology
https://www.munisentzool.org/
ISSN 1306-3022

Mun. Ent. Zool.
21 (supplement)
(September, 2026)

© MRG

SCIENTIFIC NOTES

A TAXONOMIC NOTE ON *PURPURICENUS WACHANRUI* LEVRAT AND ITS ALLIED TAXA (CERAMBYCIDAE: CERAMBYCINAE: PURPURICENINI)

| Hüseyin Özdikmen* |

* Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Gazi University, 06500 Ankara, TURKEY. E-mail: ozdikmen@gazi.edu.tr, ORCID ID: 0000-0001-9568-0093

[Özdikmen, H. 2026. A taxonomic note on *Purpuricenus wachanrui* Levrat and its allied taxa (Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae: Purpuricenini). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 21 (suppl.): 4940-4944**]**

Purpuricenus wachanrui Levrat, 1858 is extremely variable species in many known populations in its distribution area. This situation has naturally led to some inaccurate taxonomic descriptions to date. Therefore, I believe that this species and its allied taxa identified to date need a taxonomic evaluation.

This species has SW-Asiatic and E-Mediterranean chorotypes and so is distributed in Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey. It is currently accepted that includes two subspecies as the nominate subspecies known from Azerbaijan (Nakhichevan Republic), Cyprus, Iran, Iraq, Syria and Turkey, and SW-Asiatic (Irano-Anatolian) subspecies *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890 known only from Iran and Turkey.

Purpuricenus wachanrui was described by Levrat (1858: 261) from Turquie (=Turkey) without more data on its type locality. It has been reported from Turkey in Adana, Adıyaman, Bingöl, Bitlis, Çankırı, Diyarbakır, Elazığ, Konya, Malatya, Muş, Tunceli, and Van provinces until now (Özdikmen, 2021, 2024, 2025, 2026b,c) (Fig. 1).



Figure 1. Known regional and provincial distribution patterns of *Purpuricenus wachanrui wachanrui* Levrat, 1858.

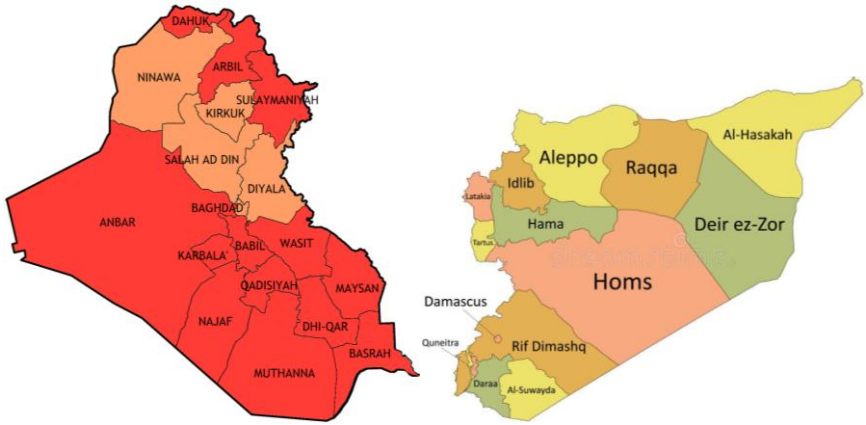
Munis Entomology & Zoology
https://www.munisentzool.org/
ISSN 1306-3022

Mun. Ent. Zool.
21 (supplement)
(September, 2026)
© MRG

Outside of Turkey, so far the nominate subspecies has been reported by various authors from Iran in mostly Northern and Western provinces as Alborz, Ardabil, Chahar Mahaal & Bakhtiari, Hamadan, Isfahan, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Lorestan, Qazvin provinces; Nehram village in S Babek district in SW Nakhichevan Republic of Azerbaijan; Penjwen district in E Sulaymaniyah province of NE Iraq and Revandiz district in NE Arbil province of NE Iraq; Aleppo province in NW Syria; and Cyprus (Figs. 2a,b,c) (Danilevsky & Hodek, 2024; Tavakilian, 2026).



(a)



(b) **(c)**

Figure 2. Provinces of (a) Iran, (b) Iraq, (c) Syria.

Purpuricenus nanus was described by Semenov (1907: 254) from Molla Ali River in Gilan province of Northern Iran on the base of smaller body length (7.4-11 mm) and much shorter antennae in males (reaching last elytral fifth). This taxon has been known only from type locality in Gilan province up to now. Also, about the population of the nominate subspecies in Ardabil province of Iran, Danilevsky & Hodek (2024) stated that "*small specimens of this population are very similar to the type specimens of P. nanus, but antennae a little longer and always 12-segmented in males and in females, 12th segments in small specimens are considerably reduced, especially in females; antennal length in males is rather variable; antennae of the biggest male are about two times longer than body, but usually in middle size males and in small males - about 1.5 times longer than body, but sometimes - about as long as body*". Thus, *Purpuricenus nanus* Semenov, 1907 was synonymized with the nominate subspecies by Danilevsky & Hodek (2024). I agree with the opinion of Danilevsky & Hodek (2024). However, this taxon is still given by Danilevsky (2026) as a separate species.

Also, *Purpuricenus wachanrui anatolicus* was newly described by Vartanis (2026: 29) from Nemrut Mountain in Adıyaman province of Turkey on the base of shorter antennae in males chiefly. Population of *Purpuricenus wachanrui wachanrui* Levrat, 1858 from Adıyaman province, Nemrut Mountain that also is the type locality of *Purpuricenus wachanrui anatolicus* Vartanis, 2026, was evaluated by Danilevsky & Hodek (2024) with known populations in Muş, Bingöl and Hakkari provinces in Turkey. Danilevsky & Hodek (2024) stated that "*male antennae 12- segmented with well-developed 12th segment, considerably longer than body (surpassing elytral apices by 5 segments) or hardly reaching elytral apex*". As seen above, this information is the same with that of Vartanis (2026) ("*antennae in males shorter and their length exceeds end of elytron by only 2 antennomeres*"). Moreover, Danilevsky (2026) also stated that "*a population of P. wachanui from Nemrut Dagi is extremely variable in all important characters (as well as other populations of the species). For example, male antennae can be about as long as body or much longer*". Therefore, *Purpuricenus wachanrui anatolicus* Vartanis, 2026 should be accepted as a synonym of *Purpuricenus wachanrui wachanrui* Levrat, 1858.

On the other side, *Purpuricenus robusticollis* was originally described by Pic (1905: 9) from Perse (=Iran) as a separate species and it was accepted as a separate species by subsequent authors. Recently, it was downgraded to subspecies level by Danilevsky & Hodek (2024) as *Purpuricenus wachanrui robusticollis* Pic, 1905. Then, *Purpuricenus wachanrui robusticollis* Pic, 1905 was recently restored by Lazarev & Ambrus (2025) as *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890 on the base of *Purpuricenus wachanrui* var. *schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890: 79 that originally described from Sultanabad in Khorasan province of Iran (but most probably - Zagros Mountains according to Danilevsky & Hodek, 2024) according to priority rule.

The SW-Asiatic second subspecies of the species *Purpuricenus wachanrui* Levrat, 1858, *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890, has been reported from Turkey only in Hakari province until now (Özdikmen, 2021, 2024, 2025, 2026a,b,c) (Fig. 3).

Munis Entomology & Zoology
https://www.munisentzool.org/
ISSN 1306-3022

Mun. Ent. Zool.
21 (supplement)
(September, 2026)
© MRG



Figure 3. Known regional and provincial distribution pattern of *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890.

Outside of Turkey, so far the second subspecies *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890 has been reported by various authors from Iran in Western or Central-Western provinces as Chahar Mahaal & Bakhtiari, Fars, Isfahan, Hamadan, ?Khorasan, Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad, and Lorestan provinces (Danilevsky & Hodek, 2024; Tavakilian, 2026) (Fig. 2a).

Purpuricenus persicus was recently described by Vartanis (2023: 1803) from Zagros Mountains, Dorud in Lorestan province and Kohgiluyeh & Boyer-Ahmad province of Iran on the base of smaller body length (14-15 mm) and shorter antennae (maximum 2 antennomeres exceeding body length). Then, *Purpuricenus persicus* Vartanis, 2023 was recently synonymized rightly with *Purpuricenus wachanrui robusticollis* Pic, 1905 or *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890 by Danilevsky & Hodek (2024). Since the characteristics of *Purpuricenus persicus* Vartanis, 2023 are within the variation limits of *Purpuricenus wachanrui schönfeldti* Heyden, 1890. I agree with the opinion of Danilevsky & Hodek (2024). However, this taxon is still given by Danilevsky (2026) as a separate species.

As a result, a new taxonomic arrangement of *Purpuricenus wachanrui* Levrat, 1858 can be presented as below.

wachanrui wachanrui Levrat, 1858: 261 — **A:** AB CY IN IQ SY TR
- *bilunatus* Schaufuss, 1871: 210 (as *Purpuricenus bilunatus*)
- *haussknechti* Witte, 1872: 207 (as *Purpuricenus haussknechti*)
- *aleppensis* Witte, 1872: 208 (as *Purpuricenus haussknechti* var. *aleppensis*)
- *nanus* Semenov, 1907: 254 (as *Purpuricenus nanus*)
- *quadrinotatus* Pic, 1912a: 35 (as *Purpuricenus schönfeldti* var. *quadrinotatus*)
- *atricolor* Pic, 1912b: 4 (as *Purpuricenus schönfeldti* var. *atricolor*)
- *diversipennis* Pic, 1915: 6 (as *Purpuricenus aleppensis* var. *diversipennis*)
- *notatithorax* Pic, 1919: 22 (as *Purpuricenus nanus* var. *notatithorax*)
- *mesopotamicus* Al-Ali & Ismail, 1987: 536, 543 (as *Purpuricenus mesopotamicus*)
- *anatolicus* Vartanis, 2026: 29 (as *Purpuricenus wachanrui anatolicus*)

wachanrui schoenfeldti Heyden, 1890: 79 — **A:** IN TR
- *robusticollis* Pic, 1905: 9 (as *Purpuricenus robusticollis*)
- *persicus* Vartanis, 2023: 1803 (as *Purpuricenus persicus*)

LITERATURE CITED

Al-Ali, H. A. & Ismail, S. I. 1987. A new species of Purpuricenus (Cerambycidae, Coleoptera) from Iraq. Iraqui Journal of Sciences, 28 (3-4): 536-543.

Danilevsky, M. L. 2026. Catalogue of Palaearctic Chrysomeloidea (Vesperidae, Disteniidae, Cerambycidae). Retrieved July 25, 2026, from https://www. cerambycidae.net/catalog.pdf (updated 07.05.2026).

Danilevsky, M. L. & Hodek, K. 2024. A complex of taxa around *Purpuricenus wachanrui* Levrat, 1858 (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae). Humanity space - International Almanac, 13 (8): 662-687.

Heyden, L. F. 1890. *Purpuricenus Wachanrui* Levrat und seine Varietäten. Deutsche entomologische Zeitschrift, 34 (1): 79.

Lazarev, M. A. & Ambrus, R. 2025. *Purpuricenus wachanrui schoenfeldti* Heyden, 1890 (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae) from Iran is a valid name. Humanity space - International Almanac, 14 (8): 627-630.

Levrat, G. 1858. Description de deux Coléoptères nouveaux. Annales de la Société Linnéenne de Lyon (nouvelle série), 5: 261-263.

Özdikmen, H. 2021. An annotated catalogue: Cerambycoidea (Cerambycidae and Vesperidae) of Turkey (Coleoptera). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 16 (Suplement): 1273-1556.

Özdikmen, H. 2024. Cerambycoidea of Turkey (Cerambycidae and Vesperidae) (Coleoptera). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 19 (suplement): 1153-2614.

Özdikmen, H. 2025. Host plants of Cerambycoidea of Turkey (Cerambycidae and Vesperidae) (Coleoptera). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 20 (1): 1-838.

Özdikmen, H. 2026a. A new longhorned beetle record for Turkey (Cerambycidae: Cerambycinae: Purpuricenini). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 21 (1): 852-854.

Özdikmen, H. 2026b. A faunistic catalogue of longhorned beetles of South-Eastern Anatolian region of Turkey (Coleoptera: Cerambycoidea: Cerambycidae). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 21 (1): 1365-1410.

Özdikmen, H. 2026c. A collective assessment of longhorned beetles of Turkey: Part VIII: Cerambycinae (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 21 (suppl.): 3639-4032.

Pic, M. 1905. Descriptions et Notes Diverses. Matériaux pour servir à l'étude des Longicornes, 5 (2): 5-15.

Pic, M. 1912a. Descriptions ou diagnoses et notes diverses (Suite.). L'Échange, Revue Linnéenne, 28 (329): 33-35.

Pic, M. 1912b. Notes diverses et diagnoses. Matériaux pour servir à l'étude des Longicornes, 8 (2): 2-7.

Pic, M. 1915. Notes diverses et diagnoses. Matériaux pour servir à l'étude des Longicornes, 9 (2): 4-11.

Pic, M. 1919. Notes diverses, descriptions et diagnoses (Suite.). L'Échange, Revue Linnéenne, 35 (396): 21-23.

Schaufuss, L. W. 1871. Neue *Purpuricenus*-Arten vorgelegt in der "Gessellschaft für Botanik & Zoologie zu Dresden am 12 October 1871". Nunquam Otiosus, 1: 209-210.

Semenov, T.-S. A. P. 1907. De tribus novis Purpuriceni formis e fauna Asiae palaearcticae (Coleoptera, Cerambycidae). Revue Russe d'Entomologie, Saint-Petersbourg, 6 (3-4) [1906]: 254-256.

Tavakilian, G. 2026. Base de données Titan sur les Cerambycidés ou Longicornes. Retrieved July 04, 2026, Available from http://titan.gbif.fr/ (updated June 01, 2026).

Vartanis, J. 2023. A new species of the genus *Purpuricenus* Dejean, 1821 from Iran (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). Munis Entomology & Zoology, 18 (supplement): 1803-1808.

Vartanis, J. 2026. *Purpuricenus wachanrui anatolicus* ssp. nov. from Turkey and *Vadonia lazarevi* sp. nov. from Greece (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae). Humanity space - International Almanac, 15 (1): 29-36.

Witte, E. 1872. *Purpuricenus Haussknechti*, eine neue Bockkäfer-Art. Berliner Entomologische Zeitschrift, 15 (2-3) [1871]: 207-208.