

## Systematic position of *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Attageninae)

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Háva J., Kalík V. 2009. Systematic position of *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Attageninae). *Baltic J. Coleopterol.*, 9(1): 35 - 38.

Systematic position of *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781 is discussed, the species is newly transferred to the genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802 and the name *Attagenus hottentotus* is proposed to replace the name *A. bifasciatus* Thunberg.

Key words: Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Dermestes*, *Attagenus*, systematic position, lectotype designation, Afrotropical region.

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### INTRODUCTION

The genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802 contains 194 known species worldwide (Háva 2003). In the present article, the status of the nominal species *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781, *Attagenus hottentotus* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838) and *Attagenus bifasciatus* (Olivier, 1790) are discussed.

### TAXONOMY

Family Dermestidae Latreille, 1807  
Genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802

***Attagenus hottentotus* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838) nomen protectum**

*Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781: 6. (nomen oblitum)

*Megatoma hottentotum* Guérin-Méneville, 1838: 65. (original description)

*Attagenus laetus* Péringuey, 1885: 88. (Arrow, 1915 as synonym)

**Type material.** *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg: 2 syntypes: [SOUTH AFRICA: Cape]. One specimen designated here as lectotype “*Attagenus bifasciatus* (Th.) comb. n. V. Kalík des.”. Lectotype deposited in Universites Zoologiska Institut, Uppsala, Sweden. Second specimen, not belonging to the same species, is labelled: “*Attagenus* sp., comb. n. non *bifasciatus* (Th.) V. Kalík 1990 det.” (Universites Zoologiska Institut, Uppsala, Sweden).

*Attagenus laetus* Péringuey: Holotype (male): [SOUTH AFRICA]: „Cape Colony, Koeberg“. Holotype deposited in South African Museum, Cape Town, South Africa.

**Other material studied:** total number of examined specimens from South Africa: 12.

**Remarks.** Thunberg (1781) described the species *Dermestes bifasciatus*. The species was quoted in two works only. Mroczkowski (1968) mentioned the species in his catalogue as *Dermestes bifasciatus*, but he considered it among species which did not belong to Dermestidae; this was also repeated by Háva (2003) in his catalogue. Dalla Torre (1911) did not mention the species in his catalogue.

The authors studied the holotype of the species and decided that it belongs to the family Dermestidae, to genus *Attagenus*, i.e. *Attagenus bifasciatus* (Thunberg, 1781) **comb. n.** However, the name has already existed in the genus *Attagenus*: *Attagenus bifasciatus* (Olivier, 1790: 13). This is a common Mediterranean species, mentioned in tens different taxonomic or faunistic papers, such as e.g. Schönherr (1806), Sturm (1843), Kraatz (1858), Reitter (1881), Dalla Torre (1911), Winkler (1926), Luigioni (1929), Porta (1929), Normand (1936), Bodenheimer (1937), Kocher (1956), Mroczkowski (1965, 1968), Alfieri (1976), Zhantiev (1976), Nardi (1995), Háva (2003, 2007), Háva & Nardi (2007), Háva et al. (2007). Háva et al. (2007) designated the neotype of this species. Its name should be fixed to support the stability of nomenclature according to ICZN (1999) paragraph 23.9.1.2. Thus, *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781 should be suppressed as a forgotten name and the valid name of the relevant African species should be its oldest available synonym, *Attagenus hottentotus* (Guérin-Méneville, 1838).

All the following nominal species are identical: *Dermestes bifasciatus* Thunberg, 1781, *Megatoma hottentotum* Guérin-Méneville, 1838 and *Attagenus laetus* Péringuey, 1885.

**Distribution.** Species known from Mozambique and South Africa (Háva 2003).

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to J. Jelínek (National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic), who provided helpful comments to improve our manuscript, and to M. Rakovič (Department of Biophysics, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic), who translated it into English.

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*Received: 16.05.2009.*

*Accepted: 25.05.2009.*

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