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Dermestes (*Dermestes*) *pubescens* sp. nov., a new species of the "*Dermestes bicolor* species group" (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Dermestinae) from the Palaearctic Region

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Taxonomy, new species, new status, distribution, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Dermestinae, *Dermestes*, Palaearctic Region

Abstract. A new species *Dermestes* (*Dermestes*) *pubescens* sp. nov. from Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia and Iran is described, illustrated and compared with similar species: *Dermestes* (*D.*) *bicolor* Fabricius, 1781, *Dermestes impressus* Pic, 1898, *D. sinensis* Háva, 2004 and *D.* (*D.*) *cernyi* Háva, 2009. The species *Dermestes impressus* Pic, 1898 stat. nov. is newly raised to an valid species.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758 currently contains 95 species worldwide (Háva 2025a, 2025b, Holloway & Herrmann 2025).

The "*Dermestes bicolor* species group" has recently been studied, with new taxa being described from the Palaearctic and Oriental biogeographic Regions, 14 species belong to the species group (Háva 2004a, b, 2007, 2009, 2019, 2022, 2023, 2025a, b, c).

In this paper, a new species from Afghanistan, Armenia, Georgia and Iran is described.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The size of the beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species recognition and thus, the following measurements were made:
total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra;
elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

The type material is deposited in the following collection:
JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

Colour photographs were taken by a Nikon Coolpix 990 digital camera through an MBS-10 binocular stereo microscope.

Type specimens are provided with the following red, printed label: „HOLOTYPE [or PARATYPE] *Dermestes* (*Dermestes*) *pubescens* sp. nov. J. Háva det. 2025".

TAXONOMY

Genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758

Dermestes bicolor species group

Dermestes (*Dermestes*) *pubescens* sp. nov.
(Figs. 1, 3, 8, 9)

= *Dermestes jakesi* Kalík: Háva, 2004: 209.

Type material. Holotype (♂): Georgia mer., Vardzia env., 7.7.2013, R. Sejkora lgt., (JHAC). Paratypes: (1 ♂): Armenia, Urtsadzor, 39°55´N 44°49´E, 1030 m, 29.vi.2016, Ing. M. Krejčíř lgt., (JHAC); (1 ♀): Armenia, Aragatz Mt., 2680 m, 40.4287N 44.2418E, 28.v.2016, S. Murzin lgt., (JHAC); (1 ♂): S Iran, 8 km östl. Bandar-Abbas, 29.3.1972, Exped. Mus. Vind, (JHAC); (1 ♀): Iran, Kerman prov., 10 km N Jiroft, Gebal Barez Mts., N 28°52´29´´E57°50´01´´, 28.5.2014, 1764 m, W. Grosser lgt., (JHAC); (1 ♂): O. Afghanistan, Prov. Nengrahar, D. Povolný et coll. / (97) Jalalabad, 15.4.1967, 580 m / PARATYPE / *Dermestes Jakeši* sp. n. det. V. Kalík 1983, *Dermestes bicolor* F. J. Háva det. 2002, (JHAC); (1 ♂, 1 ♀): Afghanistan, Paghman, 30 km NW Kabul, 2500 m, 27.vii.1965, Kasy & Vartian, (JHAC); (1 ♂): Afghanistan, Kabul Umg., 21.6.53, leg. J. Deleré, (JHAC).

Description of male. Body measurements (mm): TL 8.6, EW 3.8. Entire body brown, elongated, slightly convex with yellow setation (Fig. 1).

Head with long, yellow setation, punctation dense, maxillary and labial palpomeres dark brown. Antennae brown, with eleven antennomeres. The final three antennomeres form a short antennal club covered by yellow setae (Fig. 9).

Pronotum more closely punctured and more densely setaceous than head. Pronotal disc moderately convex, with long, yellow setation, hind margins of pronotum with long, yellow setae. Two small depressions near basal margin of pronotum.

Scutellum triangular, covered in long, yellow setation.

Elytra densely and strongly punctured; each elytron with10 striae; posterior margin near epipleuron with long, dense, yellow setation; apices of elytra gradually rounded, all parts of elytra with dense, short yellow setation.

Legs dark brown with yellow setation and brown spines.

Ventral part of body densely covered with yellow setation. Prosternum with long, yellow setation.

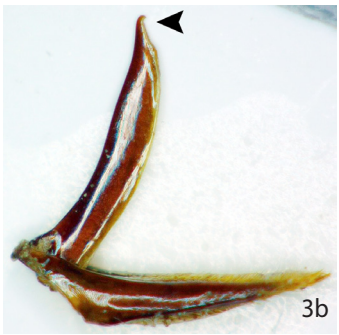
All abdominal ventrites brown and with short, dense, yellow setation. First visible abdominal ventrite with distinct lateral depressions and rub area (Fig. 8). Ventrites III and IV with median tuft of yellow setae; sternites II-IV with small latero-median depression.

Male aedeagus long, median lobe with curved tip (Fig. 3a).

Female. Externally similar to male, but abdominal ventrites III and IV are without median tuft of yellow setae.

Variability. Body measurements (mm): TL 6.7-8.6, EW 3.1-3.9. Male aedeagus long, median lobe with curved tip (Fig. 3a-b).

Figs. 1-2. Habitus: 1- *Dermestes pubescens* sp. nov.; 2- *Dermestes bicolor* Fabricius, 1781.



Figs. 3-7. Male genitalia: 3a-b- *Dermestes pubescens* sp. nov.; 4- *Dermestes bicolor* Fabricius, 1781; 5- *Dermestes cernyi* Háva, 2009; 6- *Dermestes impressus* Pic, 1898; 7- *Dermestes sinensis* Háva, 2004.

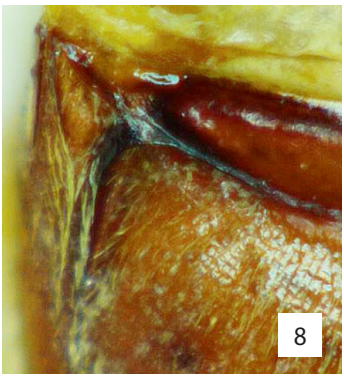


Fig. 8-9. *Dermestes pubescens* sp. nov.: 8- first visible abdominal ventrite with distinct lateral depressions and rub area; 9- antenna.

Differential diagnosis. The new species is very similar to *Dermestes bicolor* Fabricius, 1781, *Dermestes cernyi* Háva, 2009, *Dermestes impressus* Pic, 1898 and *Dermestes sinensis* Háva, 2004, but differs from them by the following charcters:

Dermestes bicolor Fabricius, 1781: elytra with yellow setation an anterior part, other parts with black setation (Fig. 2); male genitalia (Fig. 4).
Dermestes pubescens **sp. nov.**: elytra with only yellow setation (Fig. 1); male genitalia (Fig. 3a-b).
Dermestes cernyi Háva, 2009: elytra with only yellow setation; male genitalia (Fig. 5).
Dermestes impressus Pic, 1898 **stat. nov.**: elytra with only yellow setation; male genitalia (Fig. 6).
Dermestes sinensis Háva, 2004: elytra with only yellow setation; male genitalia (Fig. 7).

Etymology. This species is named after the yellowish pubescence of the elytra.

***Dermestes* (*Dermestes*) *impressus* Pic, 1898**

Material examined: Morocco C, 10 km NE of Azrou, 1680 m a.s.l., 33°28´N 05°09´W, 17.5.2010, M. Kovařík lgt., 1 ♀, J. Háva det., (JHAC).

Distribution: Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia (Háva 2025), new locality data from Morocco.

Dermestes* (*Dermestes*) *schneideri Háva, 2002

Material examined: Mongolia [M09], 33 km SW of Bayankhongor, 1800 m, N 46°01´21.623´´ E 100°20´46.410´´, 19-20.vi.2025, L. Purchart leg., 1 ♀, J. Háva det., (JHAC).

Distribution: Mandzhuria, Mongolia (Háva 2025), new locality data from Mongolia.

DISTRIBUTION

Dermestes bicolor Fabricius, 1781

Syn.: *Dermestes striatus* Kolenati, 1846

Distribution: Europe; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Georgia; Cyprus; Canary Is. (intr.); Morocco; Tunisia; India: Punjab?; Iran; Kazakhstan; North Korea?; Kyrgyzstan; Pakistan?; Russia; Syria; Turkey; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan

Note. Specimens from India: Punjab, North Korea and Pakistan need revising. Japan is excluded from the distribution because the specimens belong to other species.

Dermestes cernyi Háva, 2009

Syn.: *Dermestes bicolor cernyi* Háva, 2009

Distribution: Kazakhstan; Kyrgyzstan; Uzbekistan

Dermestes impressus Pic, 1898 **stat. nov.**

Syn.: *Dermestes impressus* Pic, 1898

Dermestes bicolor ssp. *impressus*: Háva, 2003

Dermestes bicolor ssp. *impressus*: Háva, 2019

Distribution: Algeria; Egypt; Morocco; Tunisia

Note. According to the morphological characters of recently collected specimens figured by Háva (2019) the taxon is newly stated as separate species.

Dermestes pubescens **sp. nov.**

Distribution: Afghanistan; Armenia; Georgia; Iran

Dermestes sinensis Háva, 2004

Syn.: *Dermestes bicolor sinensis* Háva, 2004

Dermestes sinensis: Háva, 2025

Distribution: China: Xinjiang

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