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Remarks on species of *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758, from the Palaearctic Region, with a new homonymy and two new synonymy (Coleoptera: Dermestidae)

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Taxonomy, synonymy, homonymy, new status, distribution, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Dermestes*, Palaearctic Region

Abstract. The following two species are synonymized: *Dermestes algeriensis* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 (syn. nov.) is a new junior synonym of *Dermestes undulatus* Brahm, 1790; *Dermestes kazakhstanicus* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 (syn. nov.) is a new junior synonym of *Dermestes fasciventris* Reitter, 1881. A new homonym is proposed and newly named: *Dermestes asiaticus* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 is a homonym of *Dermestes asiaticus* Háva, 2002, the species is newly named as *Dermestes paraundulatus* Háva, nom. nov. A new status is proposed: *Dermestes* (*Dermestinus*) *asiaticus* Háva, 2002 (stat. nov.) from subspecies *Dermestes sardous asiaticus* Háva, 2002.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758 is currently divided into three subgenera: *Dermestes* s. str., *Dermestinus* Zhaniev, 1967, and *Derbyana* Lawrence & Ślipiński, 2005, currently contains 94 species and subspecies worldwide (Háva 2025).

Holloway & Herrmann (2025) published an article on the *Dermestes undulatus* species complex from the Palaearctic Region. According to Háva (2025), the species *Dermestes undulatus* Brahm, 1790 belongs to the „*Dermestes murinus* species group“, not to the *D. undulatus* species complex.

In the paper Holloway & Herrmann (2025), a neotype of the species *Dermestes undulatus* Brahm, 1790 and its paratypes are determined (based on ICZN 1999: No. 75, these mislabeled specimens are not valid as paratypes).

RESULTS

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

Material examined: Mongolia [M09], 33 km SW of Bayankhongor, N46°01'21.623" E100°20'46.410", 1800 m, 19-20.vi.2025, L. Purchart leg., 1 ♀, J. Háva det. et coll.

Distribution. A species known from Mandzhuria and Mongolia, new locality data from Mongolia.

Dermestes (*Dermestinus*) *undulatus* Brahm, 1790

- = *Dermestes murinus* Olivier, 1790 (homonym)
- = *Dermestes vulpecula* Herbst, 1791
- = *Dermestes tessellatus* Illiger, 1802 (homonym)
- = *Dermestes caninus* Gravenhorst, 1807
- = *Dermestes variegatus* Brullé, 1832
- = *Dermestes dissector* Kirby, 1837
- = *Dermestes cylindricus* Casey, 1916
- = *Dermestes undulatus* ab. *nigroclava* Kalík, 1946
- = *Dermestes undulatus* ab. *roseipennis* Lepesme, 1950
- = *Dermestes undulatus* ssp. *martensi* Kalík (unpublished name): Schawaller, 1994 (unpublished name): Háva, 2003
- = *Dermestes algeriensis* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 **syn. nov.**

Material examined: 35 specimens from Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, and Egypt. According to the description should belong to the species *D. algeriensis*. Based on the study of this material, the variability seen is the reason for establishing it as a synonym.

Other examined material: more than 300 specimens from the Holarctic Region.

Remarks. Holloway & Herrmann (2025), a new species *Dermestes algeriensis* was described based on two males from Algeria and Morocco.

The description and diagnosis state: "No definitive external differences found between *D. algeriensis* and *D. undulatus*" during a long-term study of more than 300 specimens both from laboratory breeding, which the author conducted in 1999-2002, and from the wild, it can be said with certainty that the depicted differences in male genitalia and 9th sternite of both species are simply variability of this species, as well as size and coloration (Háva 2021).

In this paper, Holloway & Herrmann (2025) state the distribution according to Háva (2024 [= 2025]) of the species *D. undulatus* also from North Africa "Morocco to Egypt, ". Further, based on the study of two specimens, the authors state the erroneous statement "results from the current study would suggest that this is the likely distribution of *D. algeriensis*". In addition, a map of the occurrence of the species *D. undulatus* is provided, where only the mentioned specimens of *D. undulatus* studied in this work are listed. This map is missing a large number of countries from the Palaearctic Region [Holarctic Region], where the species *D. undulatus* occurs (Mroczkowski 1968, Zhantiev 1976, Chishti et al. 1992, Háva 2007, 2025).

The species *Dermestes algeriensis* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 **syn. nov.** is therefore a synonym for *Dermestes undulatus* Brahm, 1790.

Distribution: Europe, Canary Is.; Algeria; Congo (intr.); Egypt; Libya; Morocco; Tunisia; Canada; U.S.A; Afghanistan; Bhutan; China; Cyprus; India; Iran; Iraq; Israel; Jordan; Lebanon; Kirgizia; Kazakhstan; North Korea; Pakistan; Russia; Syria; Tajikistan; Turkmenistan; Uzbekistan (Háva 2025).

***Dermestes (Dermestinus) paraundulatus* Háva, nom. nov.**

= *Dermestes asiaticus* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 nec *Dermestes asiaticus* Háva, 2002

Material examined: 1 ♂: Kazakhstan Dschambul-Gebiet, 1300 m, NN Kurai Pass, 13.v.1993, leg. V. Lukhtanov, J. Háva det. et coll.; 1 ♀: Kazakhstan, Alam Ata env., 26.v.1992, J. Turna lgt., J. Háva det. et coll.

Remarks. Holloway & Herrmann (2025) described a new species *Dermestes asiaticus* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025, but this species is a homonym of *Dermestes asiaticus* Háva, 2002. The species is newly named as *Dermestes paraundulatus* **nom. nov.**

Etymology. The name *paraundulatus* refers to the similarity of the new species to *Dermestes (Dermestinus) undulatus* Brahm, 1790.

Distribution. The species was described based on one male specimen from Kazakhstan.

***Dermestes (Dermestinus) asiaticus* Háva, 2002 stat. nov.**

Dermestes sardous asiaticus Háva, 2002

Remarks. The species has been described by Háva (2002) as subspecies of *D. sardous* Küster, 1846. According to the morphological characters of recently collected specimens figured by Háva (2002) the taxon is newly stated as separate species.

Distribution. Species known from Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria (Háva 2025).

Dermestes (Dermestinus) fasciventris Reitter, 1881

= *Dermestes fasciventris* Reitter, 1881

= *Dermestes kazakhstanicus* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 **syn. nov.**

Material examined: 1 ♀: „Uralsk, Reitter“ / „D. fasciventris Rtt. Coll. Reitter“ / „compared with holotype D. fasciventris Jiří Háva det. 2000“, J. Háva det. et coll.; 1 ♂, 1 ♀: S Kazakhstan, Epil, 18.5.92, coll. H. Hebauer, J. Háva det. et coll.; 1 ♂: Kazakhstan, Karaganda env., v.1985, K. Rébl Jgt., J. Háva det. et coll.

Remarks. Holloway & Herrmann (2025) described a new species *Dermestes kazakhstanicus* from a single male specimen without any apparent study or knowledge of other species. Based on the author's study of the type material of *D. fasciventris*, all morphological characters are identical. The species *Dermestes kazakhstanicus* Holloway & Herrmann, 2025 **syn. nov.** is therefore a synonym of *Dermestes fasciventris* Reitter, 1881.

Distribution: Kazakhstan, Russia (Háva 2025).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I am very grateful to colleagues Petr Zahradník and Jan Bezděk (both Czech Republic) for valuable comments to the manuscript and to Larry G. Bezark (California, U.S.A.) and Levente Ábraham (Hungary) for the English revision of the manuscript.

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Published: 28. 11. 2025