

Redescription of *Anthrenus* (*s. str.*) *flavidulus* Reitter, 1889, and a new synonym in Palaearctic *Anthrenus* Geoffroy, 1762 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae)

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The comparison of the morphology of the dorsal patterns, aedeagus, sternite IX and mouthparts of *Anthrenus* (*s. str.*) *miniatus* Reitter, 1899 and *Anthrenus* (*s. str.*) *flavidulus* Reitter, 1889 proved that they belong to the same species. A photo of each adult form and male genitalia is provided. The name *Anthrenus miniatus* Reitter, 1899 is proposed to become a junior synonym of *Anthrenus flavidulus* Reitter, 1889. Since *Anthrenus miniatus* have also been found in Syria, the country name is now added to the distribution list of *Anthrenus flavidulus*.

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1. Introduction

The genus *Anthrenus* is one of the commonly known genera of the beetle family Dermestidae and currently contains more than 200 species and subspecies worldwide; about a third of the species belongs to the nominative subgenus *Anthrenus* (*s. str.*) (Háva 2010).

Since the members of this subgenus often look extremely similar to each other, and furthermore, show a wide range of variation in colour, the examination of their genitalia and dissection of their mouthparts (especially lacinia and galea) provides a reliable method of identifying them down to species level.

2. Material and methods

The following abbreviations are used in the text:

- IZDBET – Institute of Zoology, Department of Biodiversity and Evolutionary Taxonomy, Wrocław, Poland.
- HMNH – Hungarian Natural History Museum, Budapest, Hungary.
- MiIZ – Zoological Museum, Academy of Sciences, Warszawa, Poland.
- RK – Roman KRÓLIK, Private collection, Kluczbork, Poland.
- ZIN – Zoological Museum, Academy of Sciences, St.-Petersburg, Russia.
- ZMAN – Zoologisch Museum, Amsterdam, Netherlands.

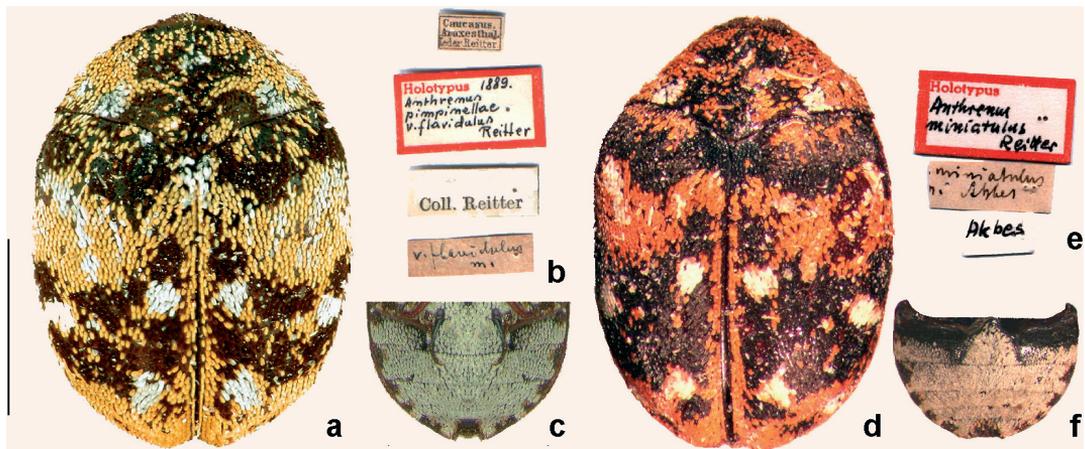


Fig. 1. *Anthrenus (Anthrenus) flavidulus*: – a. Habitus, dorsal aspect (holotype, photo after Zoltán György). – b. Labels of the holotype (photo after Zoltán György). – c. Abdominal ventrites I–V. *Anthrenus (Anthrenus) miniatulus* syn. n.: – d. Habitus, dorsal aspect (holotype). – e. Labels of the holotype (photo after Zoltán György). – f. Abdominal ventrites I–V.

The following abbreviations of measurements were used:

- total length (TL) – linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.
- total width (EW) – maximum linear transverse distance.
- pronotal length (PL) – maximum length measured from anterior margin to posterior margin.
- pronotal width (PW) – maximum linear transverse distance.
- sternite length (SL) – linear distance from anterior margin of visible sternites 1–5 to apex of sternite 5.
- sternite width (SW) – maximum linear transverse distance.

The morphological structures were cleared in boiling 10% KOH solution, rinsed in distilled water, mounted in glycerin and exposed to transmitted light, then examined, measured and illustrated under a Nikon Eclipse E 600 phase contrast microscope with a drawing tube attached. External structures were examined under Nikon SMZ-800 stereoscopic microscope. The aedeagus and associated structures were placed in glycerol filled plastic micro vials and attached to the pin of the corresponding specimen. Photos were taken with Nikon Coolpix 4500.

The distribution and classification follows the

world catalogue of Háva (2007, 2010). The terminology follows Beal (1998) and Lawrence & Ślipiński (2010).

Separate labels are indicated by a slash (/). Author's remarks are in square brackets [].

3. Taxonomy

Megatominae Leach, 1815

Anthrenini Casey, 1900

Anthrenus Geoffroy, 1762

Anthrenus flavidulus Reitter, 1889 (Figs. 1a–f, 2a–b, 3a–d, 4a–d)

Syn.: *Anthrenus miniatulus* Reitter, 1899 **syn. nov.**

Type material examined. HNHM: Holotype: Caucasus. Araxesthal. Leder Reitter. / Holotypus 1889. *Anthrenus pimpinellae v. flavidulus* Reitter [label with the red frame; the date and the species name hand written] / Coll. Reitter / *v. flavidulus* m. [hand written]; Paratypus: Caucasus. Araxesthal. Leder Reitter. / Paratypus 1889. *Anthrenus pimpinellae v. flavidulus* Reitter [label with the red frame; the date and the species name hand written] / Coll. Reitter (Fig. 1a); Holotypus *Anthrenus miniatulus* Reitter [label with the red frame; the date and the species name hand written] / *mini atulus* m. Akbes [hand written] / Akbes (Fig. 1e).

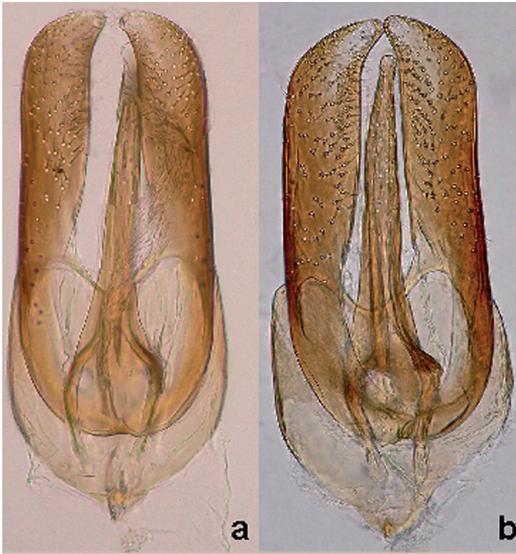


Fig. 2. – a. Aedeagus of *Anthrenus (Anthrenus) flavidulus*. – b. Aedeagus of *Anthrenus (Anthrenus) minutulus* syn. n.

Other material examined. MiZ: Dzulfá, Cauc. merid., 31.V.1914, Dr. W. Eichler (1 ex.); ZMAN: Dzulfá, Cauc. Merid. 31.V.1914, Dr. W. Eichler (4 exx.); ZIN: Тавризь, Пепція 5 V 1914 Андрієвський [leg.] (12 exx.); RK: Turkey (prov. Adiyaman) 37°54'N/ 38°48'E S of Karadut vill. 3–4.VI.2002, Roman Królik leg. (1 ex.); Turkey 38°56'N/41°09'E Buğlan Geçidi, 10 km E of Solhan, prov. Muş., 10–12.VI.2004 h = 1,800 m, Roman Królik leg. (1 ex.).

Diagnosis. *Anthrenus flavidulus* Reitter, 1889 belongs to *pimpinellae* group together with 18 other species (Kadej *et al.* 2007). The main differentiator of *pimpinellae* group is found on the elytrae, especially, in a variation in colourful spots placement on the band: generally, in *pimpinellae* species group the transversal band consists of only white scales, while in *A. flavidulus*, the band has a diagonal pattern of red (sometimes yellow) scales.

A. flavidulus Reitter, 1889 (Armenia, Turkey, “Caucasus”, Iran, Jordania after Háva 2010) at first glance resembles cosmopolitan *A. p. pimpinellae* (Fabricius, 1775). Beyond the transversal band, these species differ also in structure of aedeagus: in *A. p. pimpinellae* apical parts of parameres and base of aedeagus are narrow, while in *A. flavidulus* they are wide; setae on

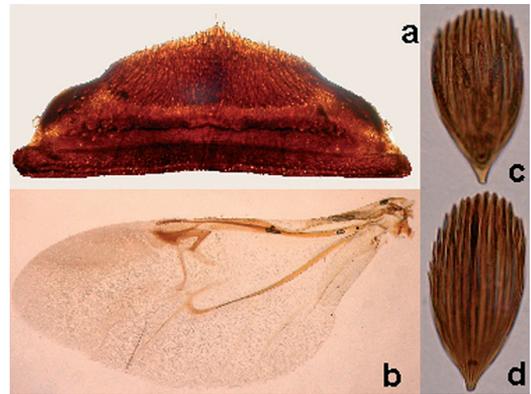


Fig. 3. *Anthrenus (Anthrenus) flavidulus*. – a. Pygidium. – b. Wing. – c–d. Scales.

parameres are longer and denser in *A. p. pimpinellae*, whereas they are short and sparse in *A. flavidulus* (Kadej *et al.* 2007).

Description of male. Body oval, with body length not exceeding 1.5 times maximum body width, covered by oval scales arranged in a colourful pattern on crest (Fig. 1a, d). Scales without ornamentation between linear ribs, their surface mostly with 12–14 complete linear ribs, apex of the scale truncated or rounded and an apical lappet not present (Figs. 3c–d). Head characterized by large convex eyes. Eye with median margin broadly and deeply emarginated at anterior 1/3. Space of frons covered with reddish (yellowish) and brown scales. Pronotum two times broader than its length; lateral margins distinctly dilated above antennal fossa and slightly visible from above. Length of antennal fossa almost 1/2 length of lateral margin of pronotum. Disc of pronotum covered with mixed dark brown, red (yellowish) and white scales (Figs. 1a, d). Antennae 11-segmented, with 3-segmented antennal club (Fig. 4a); antennal segments dark-brown. Antenna occupies whole cavity of antennal fossa. Antennal club occupies less than half length of the antenna regardless of sex. The last antennal segment rounded, and distinctly longer than length of two basal segments combined (Fig. 4a). Elytra covered with mixed dark brown, red (yellowish) and white scales (Figs. 1a, d). Subbasal band of red scales extends across elytra, between the red scales 3–4 oblique spots of white scales present. The band much shorter at suture than at lateral margin, middle margins of subbasal band

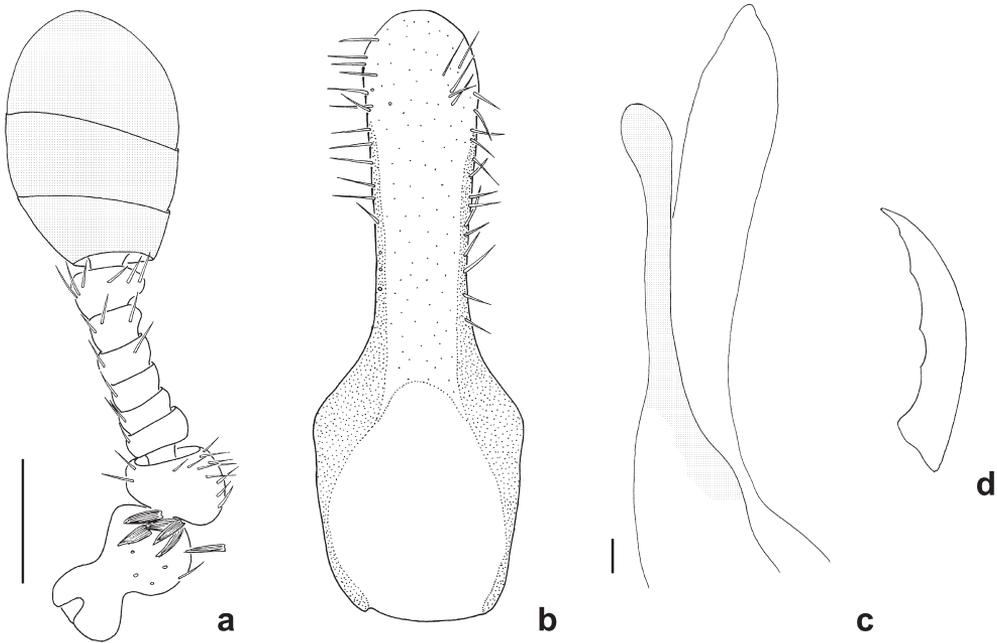


Fig. 4. *Anthrenus (Anthrenus) flavidulus*. – a. Male antenna (scale 0.1 mm). – b. Sternite IX (scale 0.1 mm). – c. Galea with lacinia (scale 0.01 mm). – d. Tarsal claw (scale 0.01 mm).

resemble an inverted letter U. Suture with line of red scales extending from behind of subbasal band or at least from middle lateral margin. Red patches also present near humeri, in the central part of disc, close to suture, and in basal third, near the lateral margin. The remaining areas between bands covered with dark brown scales mixed with single white scales, some of the white scales create 4 spots in the lower half of the elytra. Humeral calli present but barely distinguishable. Ventral surface with all scales white except for legs, and visible ventrites I–V covered with mix of brown, black and white scales. First abdominal ventrite has stria. Dark brown and brown scales present especially on femora, and anterolateral parts of the ventrites I–V, and in the center of ventrite V (Figs. 1c, f). The light brown scales around the dark brown spots on the ventrites. Tarsal claws of third pair of legs with three small denticles on inner margin (Fig. 4d). Tibiae of first pair of legs without distinct teeth (tibial spines) on lateral margin. Wing as in figure 3b. Pygidium with sub-basal, transverse, dark, carina-like line (Fig. 3a). Aedeagus small as in Fig. 2a–b. Parameres (basal lobes) U-shaped, with rounded apex, and slightly curved ventral. Parameres nar-

row at base but gradually widen, covered with few short setae on lateral margins as well as in central and inner areas. Basal connection between lateral lobes is narrow and interrupted. Bridge (lightly sclerotized ribbon) narrow, V-shaped, close to the base of penis (Figs. 2a–b). Penis with visible sclerotized rode; in lateral view straight, with a distal end of aedeagus pointing up; in frontal view, wider posteriorly, with long and narrow apodemes which occupy 1/3 of median lobe's length. Sternite IX bottle-like, narrow on top, wide at base, with a choke-point in middle. Apex slightly rounded. Setae present on top and lateral margins, but only in anterior part, extending only to half of total segment length. Lateral margins of sternite IX as well as its upper half have more pigment and are more sclerotized (Fig. 4b). Lacinia's length exceeds " of galea's length; ratio of lacinia's length to galea's length 4:5. Setae on apex of galea ended sharply (like spicisetae). Top of lacinia slightly curved, ventral, with sclerotized, bubble-like enlargement at end (Fig. 4c).

Observed variations. Body measurements varying from (mm): TL: 2.0–3.15, TW: 1.45–2.2, PL: 0.65–0.9, PW: 1.25–1.85, SL: 1.05–1.45 and

SW: 1.5–2.1. Dorsal patterns vary in colour from red to yellow, which is common for many species of *Anthrenus*. Colour variations are often observed in *A. scrophulariae*, for example: one specimen might have red scales near the suture, while another might have yellow ones. The colour of scales might have also been affected by the age and storage conditions of the material.

Distribution. EU: Armenia, Turkey; AS: “Caucasus”, Iran, Jordania, Syria (new record) (Reitter 1891, 1906, Dalla Torre 1911, Winkler 1926, Mroczkowski 1968, Kadej & Háva 2007, Háva 2007, 2010).

4. Discussion

Anthrenus flavidulus was described by Reitter in 1889 as a colour variation of *A. pimpinellae*. In his description, colour forms were compared with *A. delicatus delicatus* Kiesenwetter, 1851 and *A. cinnamomeus* Gredler, 1878 (= *Anthrenus flavipes flavipes* LeConte, 1854). This taxonomical status was sustained in literature for years to follow. Zaitzev (1919) classified the taxon as endemic to “Caucasus”. Finally, Zhantiev (1976) classified *A. flavidulus* as a separate species. Currently, *Anthrenus flavidulus* together with 18 other species is included in *pimpinellae*-group (Kadej *et al.* 2007). *Anthrenus miniatulus* was described 10 years later. In the original description, Reitter (1899) stated that it is very similar to *Anthrenus fasciatus* Reitter, 1881 (= *Anthrenus flavipes flavipes* LeConte, 1854) and *Anthrenus fasciatus* var. *isabellae* Reitter, 1899 (= *Anthrenus flavipes albopunctatus* Pic, 1895). It is surprising that the new species was compared to var. *isabellae* instead of previously described *Anthrenus flavidulus* (Reitter 1889) since both taxa are morphologically indistinguishable, as the above analysis proved. Therefore, *A. miniatulus* has been classified as a junior synonym of *A. flavidulus*.

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