

Study of the genus *Anthrenus* subgenus *Anthrenops*. Part 7. A new species from Saudi Arabia (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Megatominae)

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Abstract: *Anthrenus (Anthrenops) saudicus* sp. nov. from Saudi Arabia is described, illustrated and compared with similar Saudi Arabian species, *Anthrenus (A.) coloratus* Reitter, 1881 and *Anthrenus (A.) subclaviger* Reitter, 1881.

Keywords: Taxonomy, new species, description, Palaearctic Region, Saudi Arabia.

Introduction

The subgenus *Anthrenops* Reitter, 1881 of the genus *Anthrenus* Geoffroy, 1762, currently contains 30 species worldwide (HÁVA 2023a,b). Only two species are known from Saudi Arabia (HÁVA 2025): *Anthrenus (A.) coloratus* Reitter, 1881 and *Anthrenus (A.) subclaviger* Reitter, 1881.

The subgenus is characterized by antennae consisting of 9 antennomeres. Males differ from females by the shape of the antennal club. In males, the terminal antennomere is longer than the penultimate one; in females it is as long as the penultimate one. Adults can be found on plants, but also in households, where the larvae are harmful to different commodities of natural origin. They are feared pests in museum collections (PEACOCK 1993, HÁVA 2023, 2024a,b).

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:

TL: total length - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.

EW: elytral width - maximum linear transverse distance.

Acronym of material depositories:

JHAC Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-West, Czech Republic.

Specimens of the presently described species are provided with red, printed label with text as follows:

„HOLOTYPE (or PARATYPE) *Anthrenus (Anthrenops) saudicus* sp. nov. Jiří Háva
det. 2025”.

Taxonomy

Anthrenus (Anthrenops) saudicus sp. nov.
(Figs. 1-4).

Type material: Holotype (♂): Saudi Arabia, distr. Mekkah, 9 km S Marbelle, Wadi Numan, 21°16'999''N 40°13'14.999''E, 820 m, 15-16. and 27-29.iii.2022, P. Kabátek lgt., (JHAC). *Paratypes* (51 spec.): same data as holotype, (JHAC).

Description: Male. Body TL 1.8 mm, EW 1.2 mm; body brown, small, oval (Fig. 1). Dorsal surface covered by dark brown, light brown and white scales. Individual scales small, broad, subtriangular. Head covered by white scales with individual light brown scales. Antennae brown, with 9 antennomeres, antennal club with three dark brown antennomeres, compact (Fig. 3). Frons with median ocellus. Eyes with entire median margin. Palpomeres dark brown. Pronotum covered by white scales, brown scales discally forming large spot, light brown scales forming small spots (Fig. 1). Scutellum very small, triangular without scales. Elytra with dark brown, light brown and white scales; scales forming spots on each elytron. Epipleuron very short, with white scales. Ventral surface covered with white scales (Fig. 2). Prosternum with only white scales. Metasternum with only white scales, without a small patch of brown scales at lateral margins. Abdominal ventrites I-V with white scales, without spots in the middle and with spots at antero-lateral margins from brown scales. Legs brown with white scales and white setae. Male aedeagus (Fig. 4).

Female: Externally similar to male, except terminal antennomere is smallest.

Variability: Body TL 1.7-2.1 mm, EW 1.2-1.3 mm. Dorsal surface covered by dark brown, light brown (or brownish-yellow) and white scales.

Differential diagnosis: The new species appears very similar to *Anthrenus (Anthrenodes) haladai* Háva, 2024, but differs from it by the number of antennomeres and shape of the male genitalia; from other Saudi Arabian species *Anthrenus (Anthrenops) coloratus* Reitter, 1881 and *Anthrenus (Anthrenops) subclaviger* Reitter, 1881 it differs by the shape of the antennae and male genitalia and the colour of the pronotal and elytral patterns.

Etymology: Named for the country of origin, Saudi Arabia.

Distribution: Saudi Arabia: Mekkah district.

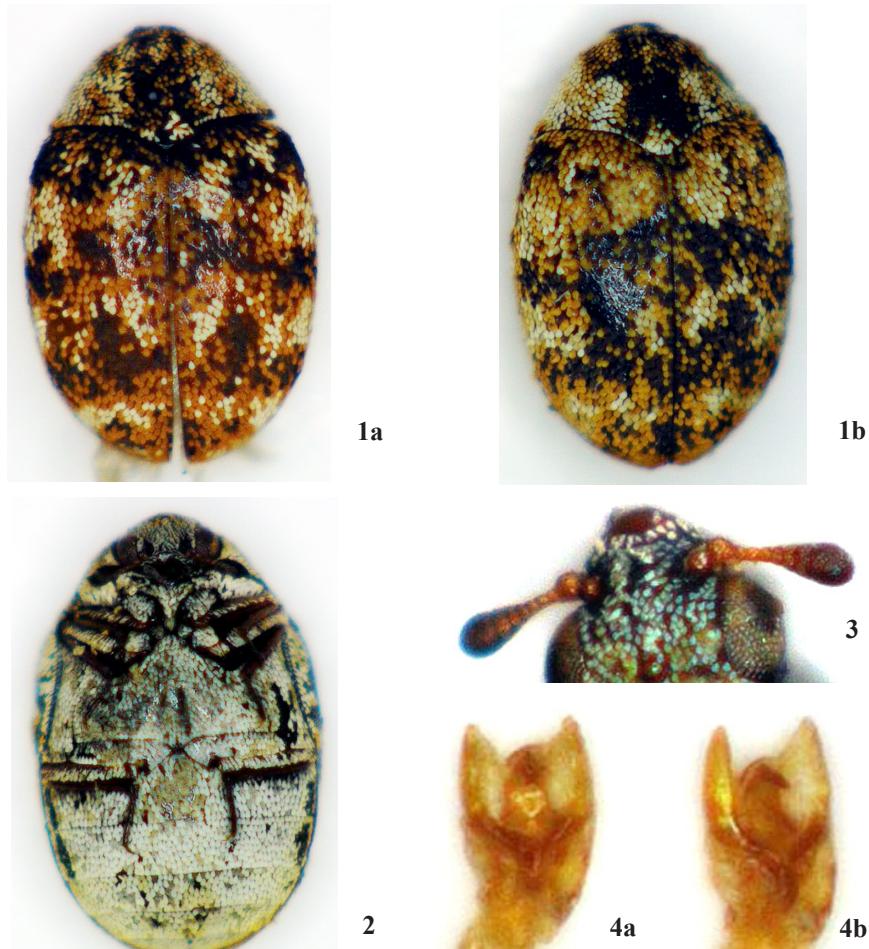


Fig. 1-4: *Anthrenus (Anthrenops) saudicus* sp. nov.: 1a-b- body, dorsal view; 2- body, ventral view; 3- antennae; 4a-b- male genitalia.

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