

**A new species of the genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758  
(Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from South America**

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**Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Dermestes*, Argentina, Chile**

**Abstract.** *Dermestes (Dermestes) argentinus* sp. nov. from South America is described, illustrated and compared with a similar looking species *Dermestes (Dermestes) patagoniensis* Háva et Kalík, 2005. Specimens of the new species were collected in Argentina and Chile.

## INTRODUCTION

When identifying some Nearctic dermestids sent by the entomologist Manuel Diéguez from Chile, a so far undescribed species of the genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758 was detected. The new species resembles at the first glance a quite similar looking *Dermestes (Dermestes) patagoniensis* but a closer examination showed important differences. A female specimen from Chile stored in the collection of the first author also doubtlessly belongs to the new species; so far it has not been advisable to describe a new species based on a single female specimen only. Hitherto the genus *Dermestes* Linnaeus, 1758 includes 92 valid species worldwide, whilst its subgenus *Dermestes* (s. str.) has 31 members only (Háva & Kalík 2005 and Háva 2007).

## MATERIAL AND METHODS

All the specimens were glued onto cards; the genitalia were removed and embedded in a mixture of polyvinylpyrrolidone, diglycerine and water. The abdomen was disconnected from the body and glued upside down behind each specimen onto the same cardboard.

Abbreviations of collections:

AHEC private collection of Andreas Herrmann, Stade, Germany;

IAMA Instituto Argentino de Investigaciones Áridas), Mendoza, Argentina;

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

MDIC private collection of Manuel Diéguez, Santiago, Chile.

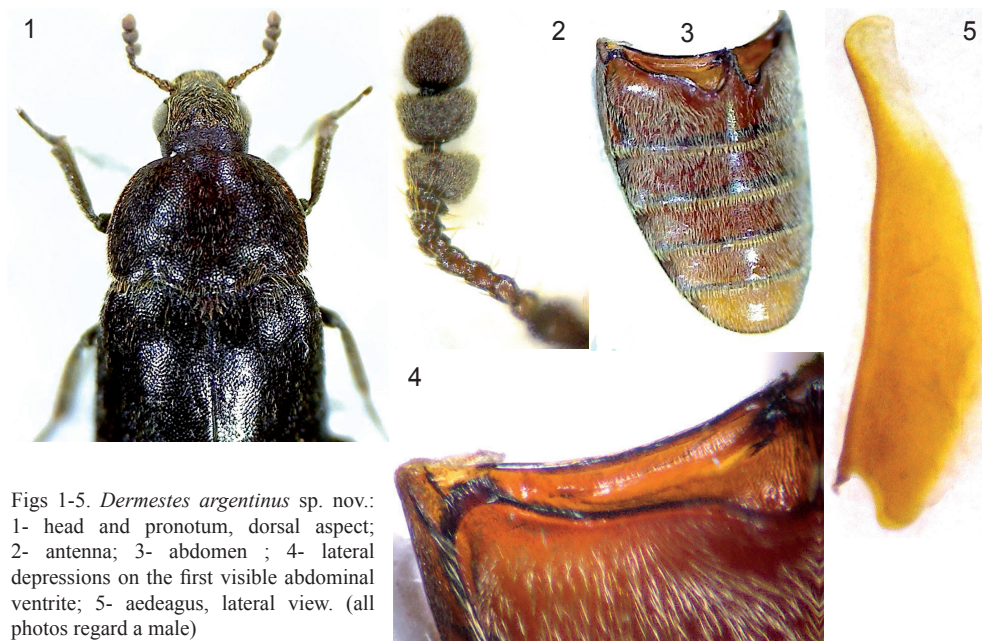
The following abbreviations were used for measurements:  
total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.  
pronotal length (PL) - maximum length measured from anterior margin to posterior margin of the pronotum.  
pronotal width (PW) - maximum linear distance between lateral margins.  
elytral length (EL) - linear distance from shoulder to apex of elytron.  
elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

## DESCRIPTION

### *Dermestes (Dermestes) argentinus* sp. nov. (Figs 1-5)

**Type material.** Holotype (♂): “Argentina: Chubut, Desembocadura, Rio Chubut, Trampa c/ menudo pollo, 20.i.-7.ii.2011 leg. Arriagada”, (IAMA). Paratypes (2 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀): with the same data as the holotype; (1 ♀): „Chile: VIII Región, San Fabian de Alico, Los Sauces, 700 m, Attracted to mercury light, 19.i.2010 leg. Andrés Ramírez”. Paratypes deposited in AHEC, MDIC and JHAC.

**Description.** Body measurements in mm: TL 8.9, PL 2.0, PW 3.0, EL 7.0, EW 3.7. Body strong and elongate, dorsal surface entirely black, more or less roughly punctate, covered sparsely with short black and somewhat longer brown hairs (Fig. 1). Head as broad as long, densely and coarsely punctate, on the frons covered mainly with recumbent brown hairs. Eyes large with some hardly visible microsetae. Palpi dark brown to almost black, and, as usual in



Figs 1-5. *Dermestes argentinus* sp. nov.: 1- head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; 2- antenna; 3- abdomen ; 4- lateral depressions on the first visible abdominal ventrite; 5- aedeagus, lateral view. (all photos regard a male)

all dermestids belonging to the subgenus *Dermestinae*, no ocellus present on front. Antenna with 11 antennomeres; the antennal club consists of 3 antennomeres, clearly distinct, longish ovate and roundabout three times as broad as the other antennomeres, it is somewhat shorter as the shaft, all three segments look dull because of extreme fine procumbent pubescence (Fig. 2). Each antennomere of the shaft is provided with a very few strong and erect setae. Colour of the club black, colour of the shaft dark reddish brown. Pronotum roughly and densely punctate, the distance between the spots smaller than the diameter of the spots, covered sparsely with short black and somewhat longer brown hairs, much broader than long, narrowed posteriorly as well as anteriorly, broadest at the apical third, the distinct lateral margins completely visible from above; cuticle between punctures shiny black; posterior and anterior angles broadly rounded. Elytra with similar punctuation and pubescence as in the pronotum; cuticle shiny and entirely black. Scutellum small and triangular, with the same pubescence and punctures as on the elytra. Punctuation and pubescence of the underside similar to elytra and pronotum except the visible abdominal sternites which are reddish brown and densely covered by recumbent light brown hairs. Legs and tarsi entirely black, covered quite densely with suberect short brown pubescence. Hind tarsi almost as long as the tibiae, front and middle tarsi distinctly shorter than the tibiae. Lateral shape of the male genitalia as shown in Fig. 3.

Female visually similar to the male.

**Variability.** Variation in size (in mm): TL 8.3-9.2, EW 3.5-3.8.

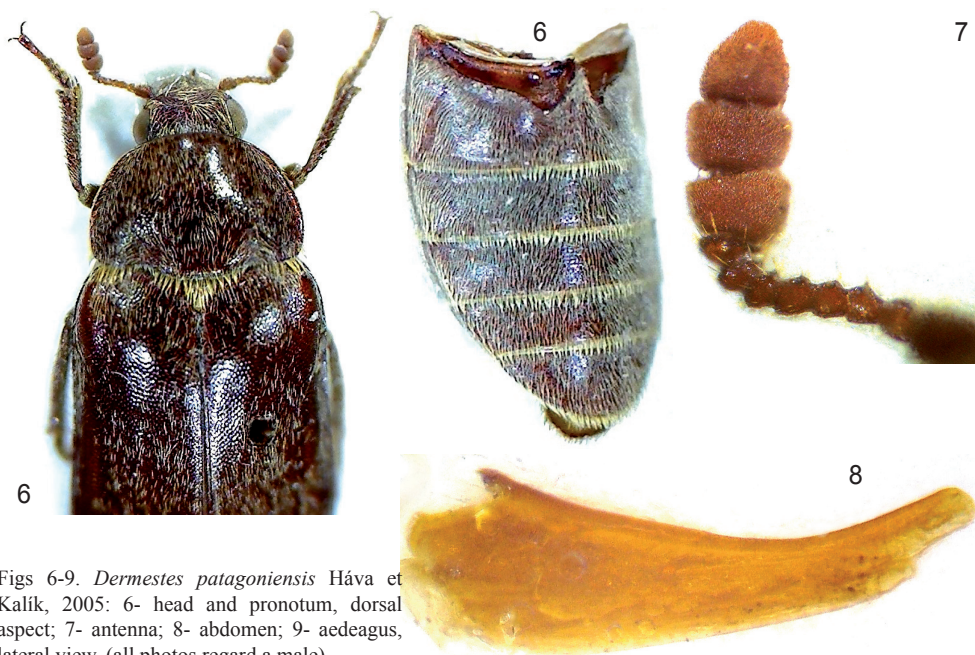
**Differential diagnosis.** The new species can be distinguished from habitually very similar looking specimens of *Dermestes patagoniensis* Háva et Kalík, 2005 by the following characters:

	<i>D. argentinus</i> sp. nov.	<i>D. patagoniensis</i> Háva et Kalík, 2005
<b>Antennal club</b>	not compact (see Fig. 2)	compact (see Fig. 7)
<b>Pronotum</b>	more or less bulged	somewhat flattened on the disk
<b>Pubescence on the body surface</b>	averagely shorter and predominantly dark	predominantly yellowish brown, at the apical margin of the pronotum with long and dense hairs
<b>First abdominal segment</b>	with a distinct fovea at the lateral margins (see Fig. 4)	without a distinct fovea at the lateral margins
<b>Shape of the aedeagus (lateral view)</b>	(see Fig. 5)	(see Fig. 9)

It differs from all other species of this subgenus in the combination of the above characters.

**Name derivation.** The name is dedicated to the country Argentina, where the holotype was collected.

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Figs 6-9. *Dermestes patagoniensis* Háva et Kalík, 2005: 6- head and pronotum, dorsal aspect; 7- antenna; 8- abdomen; 9- aedeagus, lateral view. (all photos regard a male)

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