

The first record of the Australian immigrant *Anthrenocerus australis* (HOPE, 1843) (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from Italy

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Anthrenocerus australis originates from the Australian region (Australia, New Guinea, New Zealand, Tasmania) and recently expands its distribution to Europe. The supposed starting point of the immigration was located in England seven decades ago. Then it passed the Netherlands on its way to Germany, where it is now widespread in the whole country. Meanwhile it was recorded also from Belgium, France and Switzerland. In the European region *Anthrenocerus australis* seems to be synanthropic, mainly in private homes and obviously not as a serious pest of stored products.

Unfortunately *Anthrenocerus australis* looks extremely similar to some species of the genus *Trogoderma*, particularly to *Trogoderma glabrum* (Figs. 1 and 2). It is also sometimes confused with some *Anthrenus* species, thus the actual distribution in Europe is unknown.

Beside some differences in the structure of the ventral side of the beetles the easiest way to differentiate the new immigrant from the species of the genus *Trogoderma* is the form of the antenna with a three segmented club in *Anthrenocerus*, the first segment being bigger than the second.

Some species of the genus *Anthrenus* have similar antenna, but the body of *Anthrenocerus* is covered with hairs only, while all *Anthrenus* species have scales.

When revising the collection of the late German amateur entomologist Prigge one single specimen of *Anthrenocerus australis* was detected. The specimen was labelled: Terlan-Legar, Italien-Steiermark, 4. August 1985, leg. Prigge (mislabeled? "Steiermark" should read "Südtirol" – Terlan is located in South Tyrol in Italy, while Steiermark is a federal state of Austria and no Terlan is known from there).

Summary

The immigrant *Anthrenocerus australis* (HOPE, 1843) is recorded from Italy for the first time. Differences to similar species are given, figures of the respective species are provided.

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Fig. 1: *Anthrenocerus australis*, habitus and antenna, male



Fig. 2: *Trogoderma glabrum*, habitus and antenna, male