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The genus *Neoanthrenus* Armstrong, 1941 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Anthrenini): A new synonym of *Anthrenus* Geoffroy, 1762

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Abstract

A new synonym is proposed for *Anthrenus* Geoffroy, 1762 (= *Neoanthrenus* Armstrong, 1941 **syn. n.**) and the following species are transferred to *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*): *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *armstrongielus* **replacement name** for *Neoanthrenus armstrongi* Kalík, 1957; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *consobrinus* (Háva), 2005 **new combination**; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *frater* Arrow, 1915 **return to former combination**; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *king* (Háva), 2002 **new combination**; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *macqueeni* (Armstrong), 1949 **new combination**; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *niveosparsus* (Armstrong), 1941 **new combination**; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *ocellifer* Blackburn, 1891 **return to former combination**; *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *parallelus* (Armstrong), 1941 **new combination**; and *Anthrenus* (*Nathrenus*) *svatopluki* **replacement name** for *Neoanthrenus bilyi* Háva, 2003b.

Key words: taxonomy, *Neoanthrenus*, *Anthrenus*, morphology, comparative study

Introduction

There are three named genera within the tribe Anthrenini, including: *Anthrenus* Geoffroy, 1762, *Neoanthrenus* Armstrong, 1941, and *Anthrenocerus* Arrow, 1915. *Anthrenus* contains ~220 species worldwide, whereas *Neoanthrenus* and *Anthrenocerus* comprise 9 and 31 species, respectively. Additionally, species of these last two genera are indigenous to Australia and *Neoanthrenus* is endemic to Australia (Mroczkowski 1968; Háva 2003a). In his original designation, Armstrong (1941) compared members of this genus to two cosmopolitan taxa from the genus *Anthrenus*: *A.* (*Nathrenus*) *verbasci* and *A.* (s. str.) *pimpinellae*. The main larval similarities between *Neoanthrenus* and *Anthrenus* were shown by Kiselyova & McHugh (2006) in their extensive work. Out of the 78 studied features, only 4 were found substantially dissimilar between *Neoanthrenus* and *Anthrenus* (Table 1).

Although the taxonomic status of *Anthrenus* and *Anthrenocerus* remains unchanged, the status of *Neoanthrenus* requires emendation. Major differences which formerly distinguished *Neoanthrenus* from the other two genera of Anthrenini are related to the squamosity rather than scale vestiture of the body. Armstrong's original description of *Neoanthrenus* reads:

> "Body compact, elliptical, densely squamose. Legs slender. Head visible from above. Pronotum anteriorly elevated, posteriorly angulate, abruptly narrowed in the anterior third. Mesosternum entirely bisected. Prosternum deeply and transversely excavated along the anterior margin to receive the antennae. Antennae short, 11-segmented, second segment large and subglobular, third to sixth transverse and moniliform, seventh and eighth moderately pectinate each bearing a stout seta, the remaining three forming a large, compact, sub-ovate, nearly cylindrical club. This genus is close to *Anthrenus*, but is readily distinguishable by its oblong, much less rotund form, the extent to which the head is visible from above, and its anteriorly elevated pronotum. This latter characteristic and the densely squamose clothing differentiate it from *Anthrenocerus*, and its squamose body and the form of its antennae from *Orphinus* and *Trogoderma*."

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