

A contribution to knowledge of genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802 from Ethiopia (Dermestidae: Attageninae)

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Abstract. The species *Attagenus virgatus* sp. nov. from Ethiopia is described, illustrated and compared with similar species. The species *Attagenus aeneus* Roth, 1851 and *Attagenus dichrous* Roth, 1851 are shortly redescribed, illustrated and compared.

INTRODUCTION

The genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802 is divided into two subgenera and recently contains 233 species worldwide (Háva 2015, 2020). During the determination of material deposited in my collection, I found a new *Attagenus* species from Ethiopia, which is described here. The two species known from Ethiopia are redescribed.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The size of the beetle and of its body parts can be useful in species recognition, so the following measurements were made:

Total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.

Elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

Specimen of the presently described species is provided with red, printed label with the text as follows: "HOLOTYPE *Attagenus virgatus* sp. nov. Jiří Háva det. 2019".

The following abbreviation is used to define the deposition of the mentioned material:

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

The nomenclature and zoogeography follow Háva (2015).

RESULTS

Attagenus aeneus Roth, 1851

(Figs. 1-9)

Attagenus aeneus Roth, 1851: 122.

Attagenus metallicus Reitter, 1881: 33.

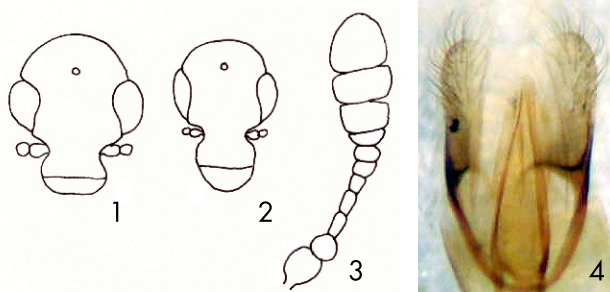
Attagenus aeneus var. *hirsutulus* Kalík (unpublished).

Attagenus aeneus var. *hirsutus* [sic!] Kalík (unpublished).

Attagenus aeneus: Háva, 2015: 2 (synonymy).

Material examined: Ethiopia, Arsi, Asella, 5.ix.-15.x.1988, 240 m, S. Persson leg., 9 spec., (JHAC); Abbesinien, Addis-Abeba, 1928, 2 spec., (JHAC); Ethiopia, Addis-Abeba, Nov.1963, N. Linnman lgt., 1 spec., [*Attagenus aeneus* var. *hirsutus*], (JHAC).

Short redescription. Body longly oval, shining, pronotum and elytra black with blue-green or green metallic lustre, covered by black and yellowish-grey setation. Body TL 4.4-5.2 mm. Head variable in breadth (Figs. 1-2). Antennae brown with 11 antennomeres, antennal club 3- antennomered dark brown or brownish-black (Fig. 3). Ocellus on frons present. Pronotum covered by black and yellowish-grey setation or only with yellowish-grey setation; yellowish-grey setation variable as in (Figs. 5-6). Elytra covered by black and yellowish-grey setation; yellowish-grey setation variable as in (Figs. 7-9). Abdominal visible ventrites covered by yellowish-grey setation. Male genitalia (Fig. 4).



Figs. 1-4. *Attagenus aeneus* Roth, 1851: 1-2- head variability; 3- antenna; 4- male genitalia.



Figs. 5-6. Pronotum, variability in *Attagenus aeneus* Roth, 1851.



Figs. 7-9. Elytra, variability in *Attagenus aeneus* Roth, 1851.

Remarks. V. Kalík determined more specimens deposited in museums (locality Addis-Abeba, Scioa = Shewa) as *Attagenus aeneus* var. *hirsutus* var. nov. (erroneously as *histutulus*) [Kalík's card-register - deposited in author's library]. According to shape of male genitalia and structure of antennae the specimens belong to *A. aeneus*. They represent a colour variability of *aeneus* only.

Distribution. A species known from Ethiopia: Oromia Region: Arsi and Shewa provinces.

***Attagenus dichrous* Roth, 1851**

(Figs. 10-12)

Attagenus dichrous Roth, 1851: 122.

Material examined: "Africa or. Italiana, 1945", 2 ♀♀, (JHAC).

Short redescription. Body longly oval, shining, head, pronotum and elytra brown covered by dark brown and yellow setation. Body TL 4.9-5.0 mm. Antennae entirely brown with 11 antennomeres, antennal club 3- antennomered, brown. Ocellus on frons present. Pronotum covered by yellow and brown setation, brown setation forming large lateral spots. Elytra covered by black and yellow setation; yellow setation forming spot on anterior half, other parts covered by intermixed brown and yellow setation, apex without setose spot. Abdominal visible ventrites covered by yellow setation.

Distribution. A species known from Ethiopia, Kenya, Saudi Arabia. (Specimens from Saudi Arabia need a revision.)



Figs. 10-12. *Attagenus dichrous* Roth, 1851: 10- habitus; 11- pronotum; 12- head, antenna, pronotum and anterior part of elytra.

***Attagenus virgatus* sp. nov.**

(Figs. 13-19)

Type material. Holotype (♀): Ethiopia, Arsi, Asella, 5.ix.-15.x.1988, 240 m, S. Persson leg., (JHAC).

Note. The holotype specimen excluded from the series of specimens previously determined as *A. aeneus*.

Description. Female. Body measurements (mm): TL 4.6, EW 2.5; cuticle black, matt without metallic lustre in elytra, pronotum and head; longly oval, covered with mainly suberect black and grey setation (Figs. 13-14). Head sparsely but quite coarsely punctate, covered with grey setation. Eyes large with median margin broadly emarginate. Palpi dark brown. Ocellus on frons present. Antennae 11-antennomered, antennomeres I-VI brown, antennomere VII-XI dark brown; antennal club 3- antennomered, terminal antennomere slightly triangular (Fig. 17). Setation and punctuation of the pronotum similar to that of the head, looking a little bit brindled by a mixture of grey and brown setation. Scutellum brown, small, triangular, with grey setation. Elytra somewhat more coarsely punctate than pronotum, with an indistinct humeral bump; cuticle black, matt, covered with suberect black and grey setation; grey setation forming four narrow longitudinal fasciae in anterior half and one spot near epipleura (Fig. 16). Epipleura black as elytra, covered by grey setation; mesosternum and metasternum black, covered by grey, long setation. Prosternal process narrow and long. Abdominal ventrites also dark brownish-black, densely and distinctly punctate, covered with grey, recumbent setation (Fig. 18). Legs dark brown with yellow setation; tibiae with short, brown spines; tarsi also brown, distinctly shorter than tibiae.



Figs. 13-19. *Attagenus virgatus* sp. nov.: 13- habitus, dorsal aspect; 14- habitus, lateral aspect; 15- pronotum; 16- anterior part of elytra with striation; 17- antennae and head; 18- abdomen; 19- female genitalia.

Male. Unknown.

Differential diagnosis. The species is similar to species *A. aeneus* Roth, 1851, *A. atripennis* Pic, 1938 and *A. dichrous* Roth, 1851, but differs from them by the characters mentioned in the following key:

- 1(2) elytral cuticle bicolorous, black or brown with reddish transverse fascia covered by yellow setation *A. fasciatus* (Thunberg, 1795)
- 2(1) elytral cuticle unicolorous
- 3(4) elytral cuticle brown; antennae entirely brown *A. dichrous* Roth, 1851
- 4(3) elytral cuticle black
- 5(8) cuticle shiny with visible metallic lustre; antennae brown, antennal club black or dark brown
- 6(7) pronotum and elytra with blue-green or green metallic lustre, covered by black and yellowish-grey setation *A. aeneus* Roth, 1851
- 7(6) pronotum and elytra black with blue metallic lustre; pronotum covered by yellow setation; elytra covered by black setation *A. atripennis* Pic, 1938
- 8(5) cuticle matt without visible metallic lustre; each elytron with four longitudinal fasciae of grey setation *A. virgatus* sp. nov.

Etymology. The specific epithet is the Latin adjective *virgatus* (striped).

Distribution. A species known from Ethiopia: Oromia Region: Arsi province.

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