Published December 31, 2025

Klapalekiana, **60**: 153–156, 2024
ISSN 1210-6100

On the identity of *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae)

Totožnost *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae)

Josef JELÍNEK

Department of Entomology, National Museum, Cirkusová 1740,
CZ-198 00 Praha 9-Horní Počernice, Czech Republic; e-mail: jj.nitidula@seznam.cz

Nomenclature, new synonymy, Coleoptera, Nitidulidae, *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758, *Nitidula viridescens* Fabricius, 1787, nomen protectum, nomen oblitum

Abstract. An overlooked taxon name, *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 is studied and its synonymy with *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787) is established. *Nitidula viridescens* Fabricius, 1787 (= *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787)) is proposed as nomen protectum and *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1756 as nomen oblitum according to Article 23.9 of ICZN (1999).

INTRODUCTION

"*Dermestes psyllius*" was described twice independently: Grouvelle (1913), followed by Audisio (1993) and Jelínek & Audisio (2007) cited the description of Herbst (1784: 21) and considered it as synonym of *Meligethes aeneus* (Fabricius, 1775), transferred by Audisio et al. (2009) in the new genus *Brassicogethes* Audisio et Cline, 2009. However, all authors overlooked an older description of *Dermestes psyllius* by Linnaeus (1758: 357). Revision of the type specimen of *Dermestes psyllius*, deposited in the collection of the Linnean Society, London, is subject of the present note.

MATERIAL EXAMINED

Lectotype (designated here): 1 specimen pinned, covered with mould, labelled: Psyllius [MS, grey label]// 25 [print]// LSL INS 7803[print]// Brassicogethes/ viridescens/ (F.) [MS]/ J. Jelínek det. 2016 [print]// Deposited in the Linnean Society Collection, London, UK.

RESULTS

Revision of the lectotype of *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 revealed, that it is in fact conspecific with *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787) (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) – new synonymy. The name *psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 has priority over *viridescens* Fabricius, 1787. Nevertheless, *Brassicogethes viridescens* is a widely distributed species of economic importance, frequently mentioned in literature under this name, whilst *psyllius* has not been used as a valid name of a species since before 1899. Therefore, I feel it reasonable to accept *Dermestes viridescens* Fabricius, 1787 as nomen protectum and *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 as nomen oblitum. Conditions for the reversal of precedence as defined by ICZN (1999),

article 23.9 are met in this case, and 28 papers from 50 preceding years, including a span of greater than 10 years, mentioning *Meligethes* or *Brassicogethes viridescens* (F.) as a valid name, are listed in the Appendix.

ACKNOWLEDGMENS. It is my pleasant duty to express my thanks to M. Fitton (Linnean Society Collection, London, U.K.) and R. Booth and M. Barclay (The Natural History Museum, London, U.K.), who enabled me to study the type-specimen of *Dermestes psyllius* as well as to J. Hájek (National Museum, Praha) for his valuable comments.

REFERENCES

AUDISIO P. 1993: *Coleoptera. Nitidulidae – Kateretidae. Fauna d'Italia 32*. Edizioni Calderini, Bologna, xvi + 971 pp.

AUDISIO P., CLINE A. R., DE BIASE A., ANTONINI G., MANCINI E., TRIZZINO M., COSTANTINI L., STRIKA S., LAMANNA F. & CERRETTI P. 2009: Preliminary re-examination of genus-level taxonomy of the pollen beetle subfamily Meligethinae (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* **49 (2)**: 341–504.

FABRICIUS J. C. 1787: *Mantissa insectorum sistens eorum species nuper detectas adjectis characteribus genericis, differentiis specificis, emendationibus, observationibus. Tom I.* Christ. Gottl. Proft, Haffniae, xx + 348 pp.

GROUVELLE A. 1913: Byturidae, Nitidulidae: 1. Cateretinae, 2. Meligethinae, 3. Carpophilinae, 4. Nitidulinae, 5. Cryptarchinae, 6. Cybocephalinae. In: SCHENKLING S. (ed.): *Coleopterorum Catalogus. Pars 56.* W. Junk, Berlin, 223 pp.

HERBST J. F. W. 1784: Kritisches Verzeichniss meiner Insektensammlung. Erste Klasse [Coleoptera]. Erste Abtheilung. Scarabaeus-Lagria. *Archiv der Insectengeschichte herausgegeben von Johan Caspar Füessly,* Heft **4**: 1–68, pls. 19–23.

ICZN 1999: *International Code of Zoological Nomenclature. Fourth Edition*. The international Trust for Zoological Nomenclature, London, xxix + 306 pp.

JELÍNEK J. & AUDISIO P. 2007: Nitidulidae, pp. 459–491. In: LÖBL I. & SMETANA A. (eds): *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera, 4. Elateroidea – Derodontoidea – Bostrichoidea – Lymexyloidea – Cleroidea – Cucujoidea.* Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 935 pp.

LINNAEUS C. 1758: *Caroli Linnaei Systema Naturae per Regna tria Naturae, secundum classes, ordines, genera, species, cum characteribus, differentiis, synonymis, locis. Tomus I. Editio decima, reformata.* Impensis Direct. Laurentii Salvii, Holmiae, 823 pp.

SOUHRN

Poprvé je zjištěna synonymie druhů *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 a *Nitidula viridescens* Fabricius, 1787 (= *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787)). V souladu s ustanoveními článku 23.9, ICZN (1999), je *Nitidula viridescens* Fabricius, 1787 navržena jako nomen protectum a *Dermestes psyllius* Linnaeus, 1758 jako nomen oblitum. Je uveden seznam 28 prací z posledních 50 let, ve kterých je uvedeno jméno *Meligethes* nebo *Brassicogethes viridescens* (F.) jako validní jméno (viz Appendix).

APPENDIX

Papers mentioning *Meligethes* or *Brassicogethes viridescens* (Fabricius, 1787) during the past 50 years.

1. ALEXANDER K. N. A. 2009: Records for some Irish pollen beetles of the genus Meligethes Stephens (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). *Irish Naturalists' Journal* **30 (1)**: 62–63.
2. AUDISIO P. 1980: *Fénybogarak – Nitidulidae. Fauna Hungarica 140*. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, 171 pp. (in Hungarian).
3. AUDISIO P. 1993: *Coleoptera. Nitidulidae – Kateretidae. Fauna d'Italia 32*. Edizioni Calderini, Bologna, xvi + 971 pp.

4. AUDISIO P., DE BIASE A., ROMANELLI P., ANGELICI M. C., KETMEIER V. & DE MATTHEIS M. 2000: Molecular re-examination of the taxonomy of the Meligethes viridescens species complex (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). *Biochemical Systematics and Ecology* **28 (1)**: 1–13.
5. AUDISIO P., CLINE A. R., DE BIASE A., ANTONINI G., MANCINI E., TRIZZINO M., COSTANTINI L., STRIKA S., LAMANNA F. & CERRETTI P. 2009: Preliminary re-examination of genus-level taxonomy of the pollen beetle subfamily Meligethinae (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). *Acta Entomologica Musei Nationalis Pragae* **49 (2)**: 341–504.
6. BILLQUIST A. & EKBOM B. 2001: The influence of host plant species on parasitism of pollen beetles (Meligethes spp.) by Phradis morionellus. *Entomologia Experimentalis et Applicata* **98**: 41–47.
7. BOUSQUET Y., BOUCHARD P., DAVIES A. E. & SIKES D. S. 2013: *Checklist of beetles (Coleoptera) of Canada and Alaska. Edition 2*. Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow, 402 pp.
8. FINCH S., COLLIER R.H. & ELLIOTT M.S. 1990: Seasonal variations in the timing of attacks of bronzed blosom beetles (Meligethes aeneus/ Meligethes viridescens) on horticultural brassicas. *Brighton Crop Protection Conference Pests and Diseases* **1**: 349–354.
9. HIIESAAR K., METSPALU L., LÄÄNISTE P., JÖGAR K., KUUSIK A. & JÕUDU J. 2003: Insect pests on winter oilseed rape studies by different catching methods. *Agronomy Research* **1**: 17–29.
10. HOEBEKE E. R. & WHEELER A. G. jr. 1996: Meligethes viridescens (F.) (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in Maine, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island: Diagnosis, distribution, and bionomics of a palaearctic species new to North America. *Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washingto*n **98**: 221–227.
11. HRUDOVÁ E., SEIDENGLANZ M., TANCIK J., KOLAŘÍK P. & HAVEL J. 2018: Druhové spektrum blýskáčků v porostech řepky v České a Slovenské republice v roce 2006. (The species of pollen beetles occurring in oilseed rape crops in the Czech and Slovak Republic in 2006). *Sborník z konference „Prosperující olejniny" 5.-7.12.2017,* pp. 80–85 (in Czech, English summary).
12. JELÍNEK J. & AUDISIO P. 2007: Family Nitidulidae Latreille, 1802. Pp. 459–491. In: LÖBL I. & SMETANA A. (eds): *Catalogue of Palaearctic Coleoptera. Volume 4. Elateroidea – Derodontoidea – Bostrichoidea – Lymexylonoidea – Cleroidea – Cucujoidea.* Apollo Books, Stenstrup, 935 pp.
13. KARLSTORP M. & NILSON C. 1981: Rape beetles in central Swedish spring rape fields. *Växtskyddsnotiser* **45**: 146–154.
14. KIRK-SPRIGGS A. H. 1996: Pollen beetles. Coleoptera: Kateretidae and Nitidulidae: Meligethinae. *Handbooks for Identification of British Insects* **5 (60)**: 1–157.
15. KLAUSNITZER B., HORNIG U., BEHNE L., FRANKE R., GEBERT J., HOFFMANN W., HORNIG U., JÄGER O., MÜLLER H., RICHTER W., SIEBER M. & VOGEL J. 2009: Die Käferfauna (Coleoptera) der Oberlausitz. Beiträge zur Insektenfauna Sachsens. Band 21, Teil 3. Band 7. Teil 1. *Entomologische Nachrichten und Berichte* **Supplementum 12**: 252 pp.
16. KLAUSNITZER B., BEHNE L., FRANKE R., GEBERT J., HOFFMANN W., JÄGER O., MÜLLER H., RICHTER W., SIEBER M. & VOGEL J. 2018: Die Käferfauna (Coleoptera) der Oberlausitz. Beiträge zur Insektenfauna Sachsens. Band 21, Teil 3: Nachträge, Gesamtübersicht und Analyse der Umweltbezüge. *Entomologische Nachrichten und Berichte* **Supplementum 23**: 629 pp.
17. LIPA J. J. & HOKKANEN H. M. T. 1992: Nosema meligethi I. & R. (Microsporida) in populations of Meligethes spp. in Europe. *Biocontrol Science and Technology* **2 (2)**: 119–125.
18. MARCZALI Z. & KESZTHÉLYI S. 2003: A study on Meligethes species in Keszthely, 2002. *Journal of Central European Agriculture* (online) **4 (3)**: 237–244.
19. MARCZALI Z. & NÁDASY M. 2006: Wintering characteristic of the Meligethes species in Hungary. A Meligethes fajok telelési sajátosságai Magyarországon. *Journal of Central European Agriculture* **7 (2)**: 283–287.
20. MARCZALI Z., NÁDASY M. & KESZTHÉLYI S. 2006: A study on swarming phenology and food plant selection of Meligethes species in four consecutive years. *Cereal Research Communications* **34 (1)**, *Proceedings of the V. Alps-Adria scientific workshop Opatija, Croatia, 6.-11. March 2006*. Part 1 2006. Akadémiai Kiadó, Budapest, pp. 41–44.
21. MASON P., OLFERT O., SLUCHINSKI L., WEISS R., BOUDREAULT C., GROSSRIEDER M. & KUHLMANN U. 2003: Actual and potential distribution of an invasive canola pest, Meligethes viridescens (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae) in Canada. *Canadian Entomologist* **135 (3)**: 405–413.
22. METSPALU L., WILLIAMS I. H., JOGAR K., PLOOMI A., HIIESAAR K., LAANISTE P., SVILPONIS E., MAND M. & LUIK A. 2011: Distribution of Meligethes aeneus (F.) and M. viridescens (F.) on cruciferous plants. *Zemdirbyste – Agriculture* **98**: 27–37.

23. NILSSON C. 1987: Yield losses in summer rape caused by pollen beetles (Meligethes spp.). *Swedish Journal of Agricultural Research* **17**: 105–111.
24. REGNAULT P. J. J. & STRIZYK S. 1981: Active comparée en fonction de la temperature et du temps, de plusieurs insecticides employes dans la lutte contre les meligethes du colza Meligethes aeneus, Meligethes viridescens. *Phytiatrie-Phytopharmacie* **30 (1)**: 13–19.
25. SEIDENGLANZ M. & POSLUŠNÍN J. 2011: Species spectrum of pollen beetles from genus Meligethes at selected localities of the Czech Republic in year 2010. *Úroda*, vědecká příloha časopisu [CD] **59 (12)**: 291–294.
26. THIEME T., DRBAL U., GLOYKE K. & HOFFMANN U. 2008: Different methods of monitoring susceptibility of oilseed rape beetles to insecticides. *EPPO Bulletin* **38**: 114–117.
27. TÓOTH P., HRUDOVÁ E., SAPÁKOVÁ E., ZAVADSKÁ E. & SEIDENGLANZ M. 2013: Species of the genus Meligethes occurring in oil-seed crop fields in the Czech Republic. *Plant Protection Science* **49 (4)**: 177–186.
28. VUTS J., SZARUKÁN J., MARCZALI Z., BALINKNÉ CSONKA E., SZILÁGYI A., IMREI Z., NAGY A. & TÓTH M. 2022: Differences in colour preference among pollen beetle species (Coleoptera: Nitidulidae). *Journal of Applied Entomology* **146**: 301–309.