

Family Dermestidae (Insecta: Coleoptera) on postage stamps

Jiří HÁVA

Private Entomological Laboratory and Collection,
Rýznerova 37/37, CZ-252 62 Únětice u Prahy, Praha-západ, Czech Republic
e-mail: jh.dermestidae@volny.cz

Abstract

Many people, entomologists, and nonprofessional alike, are avid collectors of stamps portraying insects. In this article, I review the number of official and published postal stamps featuring dermestid beetles (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from 1978 to 2000. The three species *Dermestes lardarius* Linnaeus, 1758, *Anthrenus scrophulariae* (Linnaeus, 1758) and *Anthrenus verbasci* (Linnaeus, 1767) on postage stamps are illustrated and briefly commented.

Keywords: entomophilatelia, postage stamps, Coleoptera, Dermestidae.

Introduction

The beetle family Dermestidae (Coleoptera) recently contains about 1700 species and subspecies worldwide (Háva 2015, 2021).

Postage stamps of these are known by thousands from all over the world, but only four of them depict species of the family Dermestidae. There are three species on postage stamps issued in the African countries of Algeria, Mali, Nigeria and Tanzania. Here they are illustrated and briefly commented.

Material and methods

Detailed information on stamps is in Michel Catalogues (2013, 2016, 2017).

My survey is based on my own data as well as public information provided by the comprehensive and excellent insect stamp compilations of Mr. Patrice Bonafonte (http://patrice.bonafonte.free.fr/coleos/index_us.html) (Access: March-20-2018). The beetle family Carabidae on postage stamps recently published by Kabourek (2017) and Raupach (2018).

Results

1. *Dermestes bromius*: DERMESTE.



Remarks. Known the Mali post stamp (from a series of five stamps - Insects) issued in 1978 and figured species *Dermestes lardarius* Linnaeus, 1758.

2. ANTHRENE.



Remarks. Known the Algeria post stamp (from a series of four stamps) issued in 2000 and figured species *Anthrenus scrophulariae* (Linnaeus, 1758).

3. CARPET BEETLE (*Anthrenus verbasci*).



Remarks. Known the Nigeria post stamp (from a series of four stamps - Insects of Nigeria) issued in 1986 and figured species *Anthrenus verbasci* (Linnaeus, 1767).

4. unnamed.



Remarks. Little known the Tanzania post stamp (from a series of nine stamps - Exotic flowers) issued in 1998 and figured species *Anthrenus scrophulariae* (Linnaeus, 1758).

References

- HÁVA J. 2015: *World Catalogue of Insects. Volume 13. Dermestidae (Coleoptera)*. Leiden/Boston: Brill, xxvi + 419 pp.
- HÁVA J. 2021: *Dermestidae World (Coleoptera)*. - World Wide Web electronic publication (open in 2004): <http://www.dermestidae.wz.cz> (version 2018, update January 2021)
- KABOUREK V. 2017: Beetles on stamps. *Journal of Ethnoentomology and Cultural Entomology* 1(1): 52-72.
- MICHEL CATALOGUE 2013: *Westafrika 2013*. Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, 798 pp.
- MICHEL CATALOGUE 2016: *Nordafrika 2016/2017*. Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, 896 pp.
- MICHEL CATALOGUE 2017: *Ostafrika 2017*. Schwaneberger Verlag GmbH, 736 pp.
- RAUPACH M. J. 2018. Endless forms most beautiful - Ground beetles (Coleoptera, Carabidae) on postal stamps. *Angewandte Carabidologie* 12: 29-35.