Two new species of Attagenus Latreille (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Attageninae) from Ibiza, Spain, and France

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Abstract. Two **new species,** *Attagenus balearicus* Holloway and Herrmann, and *Attagenus vitalii* Holloway and Herrmann (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Attageninae) are described from Ibiza (Spain) and France, respectively, and compared with *A. trifasciatus* (Fabricius, 1787). Differentiation is based on male and female genital structure and associated characters as well as external features such as antennal structure and habitus coloration. Images of habitus, ventrites, antenna, and male and female genital structures are presented. The new species described are more examples of edge of range species in Dermestidae. *Attagenus balearicus* was collected from the Balearics and might represent another island endemic along with other recently described species from the region.

Key words. *balearicus*, dissection, genitalia, identification, taxonomy, *trifasciatus*, *vitalii.*

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Introduction

The genus *Attagenus* Latreille, 1802 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) with over 400 species is the largest genus within Dermestidae (Háva 2025). The genus is distributed largely across the Palaearctic and Africa (Mroczkowski 1968). In southern Europe there are several groups of very similar species, and the taxonomy of these groups is poorly understood. The *A. bifasciatus* (Olivier, 1790) group of species has received some attention recently, for example, the description of a neotype of *A. bifasciatus* (Háva et al. 2007), but the overriding conclusion is that many species remain confused (Holloway and Herrmann 2024) with much more work needing to be carried out to disentangle the taxonomy. In the current study the *A. trifasciatus* (Fabricius, 1787) group is the focus of attention. Háva (2025) places seven species into the *A. trifasciatus* group: *A. barbieri* Pic, 1946, *A. calabricus* Reitter, 1881, *A. distinctus* Mulsant and Rey, 1868, *A. fallax* Gené, 1839, *A. heydeni* (Reitter, 1881), *A. similaris* Mulsant and Rey, 1868, and *A. trifasciatus*. The distributions of all these species include western Mediterranean countries, except *A. barbieri* which occurs in the eastern Mediterranean and into Saudi Arabia (Háva 2025). A survey of specimens from North Africa (Morocco), Spain and France indicated several species, including two new species from Ibiza (*Attagenus balearicus*) and France (*Attagenus vitalii*). These two new species are described here and compared with *A. trifasciatus* specimens from Spain and France.

Materials and Methods

Study specimens were obtained from Andreas Herrmann's entomology collection (**AHEC**), Stade, Germany, and Graham Holloway's entomology collection (**GHEC**), Reading, UK. Other collections for deposition of type specimens include: Natural History Museum, London, UK (**NHMUK**), Naturalis Biodiversity Centre, Leiden, The Netherlands (**RMNH**), and Staatliches Museum für Naturkunde, Stuttgart, Germany (**SMNS**). Specimens were

relaxed in water for a day prior to dissection. Dissection was carried out under a Brunel BMSL zoom stereo LED microscope and involved detaching the abdomen from the rest of the insect using two entomological pins. The soft tergites were then peeled away from the harder ventrites to expose the genitalia. The aedeagus was detached from the ring sclerite, and then sternite IX was detached from the ring sclerite and the aedeagus. Habitus images, both dorsal and ventral views, were captured at ×20 magnification using a Canon EOS 2000D camera mounted on the BMSL microscope. Images of aedeagi, sternite IX, tergite IX, and sclerites within the bursa copulatrix were captured at ×200 magnification using a Canon EOS 1300D camera mounted on a Brunel monocular SP28 microscope. The female sclerites were flattened under a slide cover slip for imaging. After dissection, all body parts were mounted on a card. The antennae were teased out and images were taken at ×100 magnification through the SP28 microscope. All images were fed through Helicon Focus Pro version 8.2.2 focus-stacking software. Habitus measurements were made using a calibrated eyepiece. All other measurements were made using DsCap.Ink software version 3.90. Measurements were taken as follows:

- Body length (BL): distance from anterior margin of pronotum to the apex of the elytra.
- Body width (BW): distance across widest part of abdomen.
- Paramere length (PL): distance from the anterior end of the parameres to the apex of the parameres
- Median lobe length (ML): distance from posterior tip to tip of one anterior stirrup.
- Sternite IX length (SL): distance from the tip of one anterior horn to the tip of the posterior lobe
- Sclerite length (ScL): distance from tip of most posterior tooth to tip of more anterior tooth on sclerite in bursa copulatrix

The distribution map was created using SimpleMappr (Shorthouse 2010). Scale bars were added using ImageJ 1.53M (Schneider et al. 2012).

Taxonomy

Dermestidae Latreille, 1803
Attageninae Laporte de Castelnau, 1840
Attagenini Laporte de Castelnau, 1840
Attagenus Latreille, 1802

Attagenus balearicus Holloway and Herrmann, new species

(Fig. 1–2)

Type specimens. Holotype male. Spain, Ibiza, Castell d'Elvissa (38.907, 1.436), 27.v.2018, J. Schönfeld leg. (AHEC). **Paratypes.** Ten specimens, same data as holotype (one male and three females deposited in AHEC; one male and one female deposited in NHMUK; one male and one female deposited in SMNS; two females deposited in RNHM).

Description, external characteristics. Holotype (Fig. 1), BL = 3.1 mm, BW = 1.8 mm, BW/BL = 0.58. Single brown ocellus on head (Fig. 1A) level with top of bulbous eyes. Integument of head and pronotum dark brown. Head from vertex to labrum coated in yellow hairs. Pronotum with yellow hairs around all margins, broad patches at hind angles, six spots of black hairs sub-posterior margin, disk of pronotum with black hairs plus a small number of yellow hairs.

Scutellar shield dark brown, triangular. Elytral integument dark brown at base becoming slightly paler towards apices. Hairs on elytra dark brown/black and pale yellow. Pale-yellow hairs arranged in three broad, distinct fasciae: sub-basal, sub-medial, and pre-apical. Sub-basal fascia starting at lateral margin, looping down across elytra and then up towards, but not reaching, scutellar shield. Scutellar shield bordered by dark hairs. Sub-medial fascia consisting of four connecting patches of pale-yellow hairs, again starting at lateral margin. Sub-basal and sub-medial fasciae connected by pale-yellow hairs along elytral suture. Pre-apical fascia consisting of two or three connecting patches of pale-yellow hairs. Pre-apical fascia connected with apical patch of pale-yellow hairs along elytral suture and lateral margin so that pale-yellow hairs form a circle on each elytron. The halves of

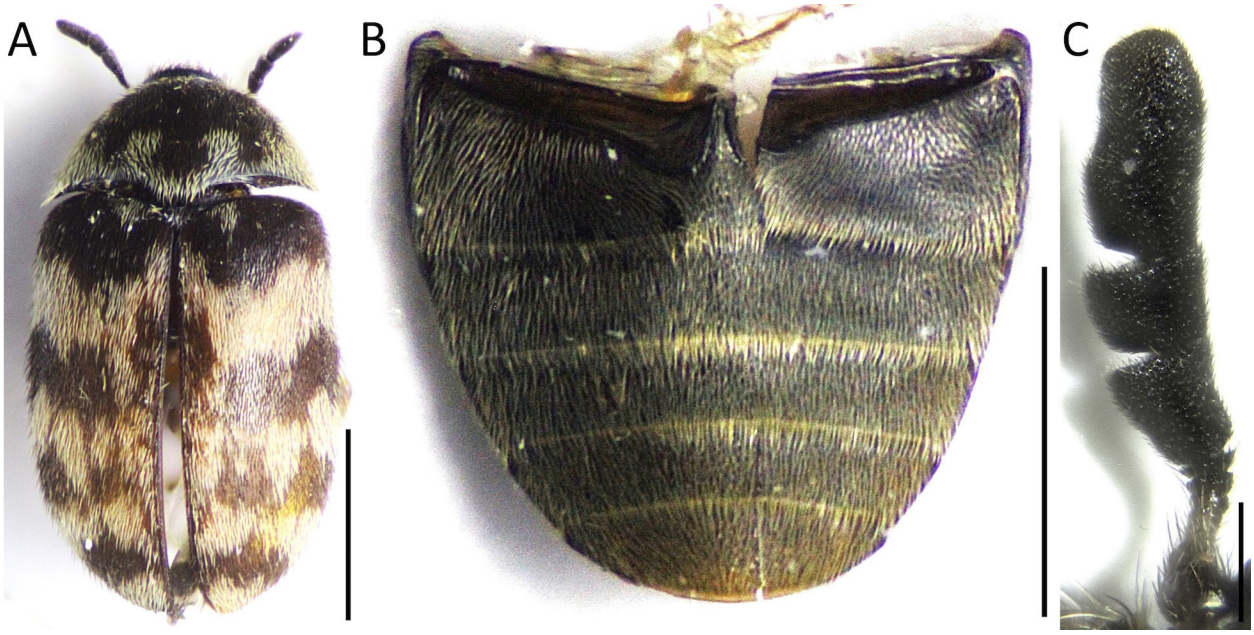

Figure 1. *Attagenus balearicus* Holloway and Herrmann **sp. nov.**, male. **A)** Paratype habitus (scale bar = 1 mm). **B)** Holotype ventrites (scale bar = 1 mm). **C)** Holotype antenna (scale bar = 100 μm).

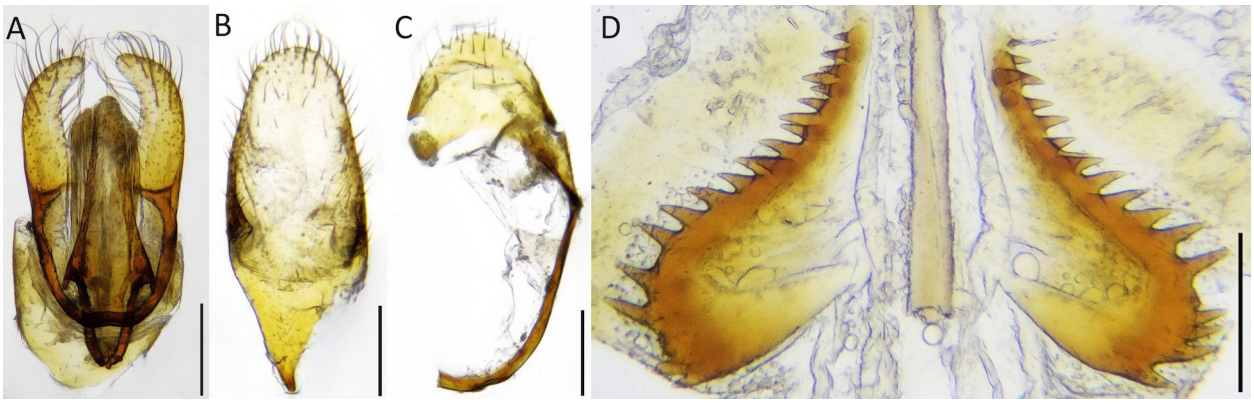

Figure 2. *Attagenus balearicus* Holloway and Herrmann **sp. nov.**, holotype male. **A)** Aedeagus dorsal aspect. **B)** Sternite IX. **C)** Tergite IX. All scale bars = 100 μm.

all fasciae meet at elytral suture. Patch of pale-yellow hairs on elytral base past midpoint towards scutellar shield. Hairs between pale-yellow fasciae dark brown.

Ventrite (Fig. 1B) integument dark brown at base becoming reddish at apex. Ventrite 1 with yellow hairs along posterior margin and on each outer ¼. Each inner ¼ covered in dark brown/black hairs. Posterior margins of ventrites 2–4 with distinct band of bright yellow hairs, otherwise duller yellow hairs throughout.

Antenna (Fig. 1C) with 11 antennomeres, antennomeres 1 and 2 black, globular, antennomeres 3–5 yellow, transverse, antennomeres 6–8 black, transverse (antennomere 8 disk-shaped), antennomeres 9–11 forming large, black club. Antennomere 10 two-thirds length of antennomere 9, terminal antennomere angular with blunt apex, longer than antennomeres 9 and 10 combined.

Description, internal characteristics. Paramere (Fig. 2A, PL = 295 μm) bases narrow, heavily sclerotized rods running along dorsal edges of anterior halves of parameres, joined to form flat base to aedeagus. At halfway, these sclerotized edges join to form bridge across aedeagus. Above bridge parameres broad, pale brown. Outer margins diverge from base to just before posterior tips where they turn inwards towards each other. Posterior paramere

tips with many long, wavy setae along outer margin, inner margin, and disk. In between these long setae, many short setae down to bridge. Median lobe (ML = 295 μm) with strongly sclerotized, concave marginal rods that continue anteriad to form two convergent stirrups. Tissue between marginal rods pale brown. Tip of medial lobe blunt, evenly convex, falling short of paramere tips, but extending beyond soft pad on ventral surface of median lobe. Ventral pad lateral margins straight to shallow convex extending from tip of median lobe to base (disappears behind median lobe in Fig. 2A).

Sternite IX (Fig. 2B, SL = 380 μm) with single, anterior attachment point. From attachment point, margins diverge to nearly halfway to flaps that wrap around sides of aedeagus. From flaps, margins gradually converge to broad, convex posterior margin. Anterior to flaps and part way up margins posterior to flaps sternite IX yellow, rest of sternite off-white. Setae line margins posterior to flaps, longest and curved inwards along posterior margin. Some setae scattered across disk. Tergite IX (Fig. 2C) damaged in holotype with one side of ventral ring missing. However, information aiding species separation is held in structure of posterior lobe which is intact. Posterior lobe yellow. Posterior lobe anterior margin inverted V-shaped. Posterior margin with several sharp, straight setae, some setae spreading from tip of posterior margin into disk of posterior lobe. Small patches of white tissue on lateral margins towards base of posterior lobe.

Sclerites in bursa copulatrix (Fig. 2D, mean ScL = 240 μm) short, with very short posterior stems. Double row of stout teeth along posterior stem, becoming single row around anterior paddle. Anterior margin of paddle almost straight, slightly convex. Posterior stem and outer margin of paddle heavily sclerotized (reddish brown), anterior margin and paddle disk weakly sclerotized (pale brown).

Etymology. *Attagenus balearicus* is named after the Balearics, the group of Spanish, western Mediterranean islands of which Ibiza is one.

Distribution. Known only from Ibiza.

Attagenus vitalii Holloway and Herrmann, new species

(Fig. 3–4)

Type specimens. Holotype male. France, Chapelle Notre-Dame de la Menour, nr Sospel (43.922, 7.412), 8.vii.1989, F. Vitali leg. (AHEC) **Paratypes.** One female, same data as holotype (AHEC).

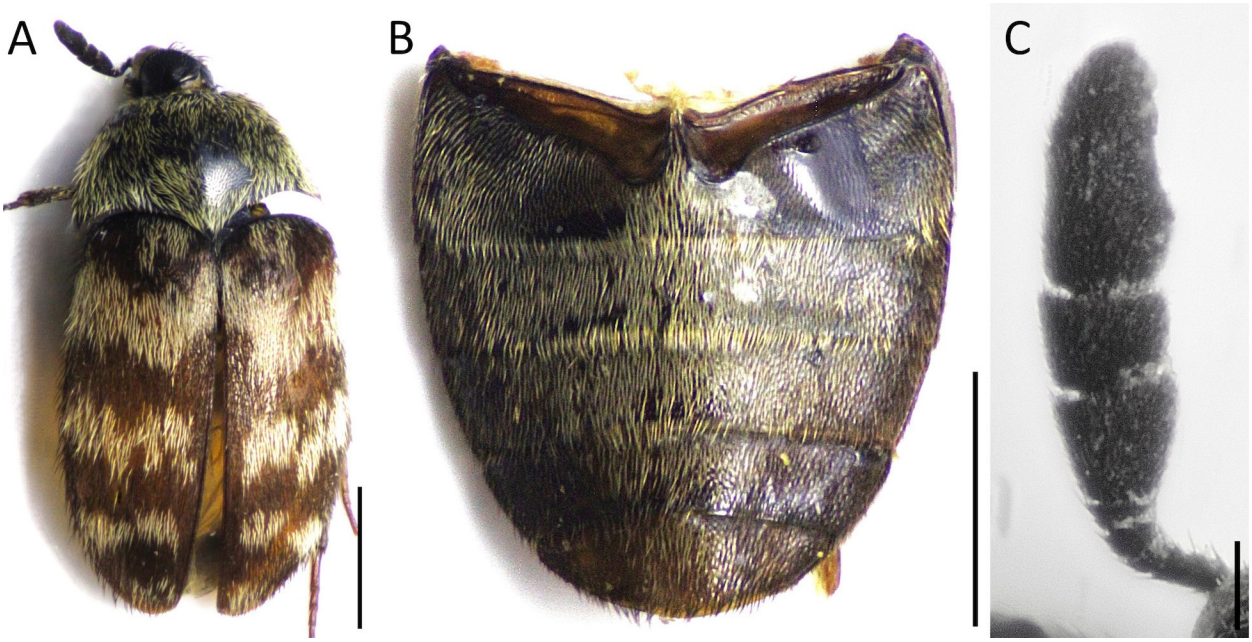

Figure 3. *Attagenus vitalii* Holloway and Herrmann **sp. nov.**, holotype male. **A)** Habitus (scale bar = 1 mm). **B)** Ventrites (scale bar = 1 mm). **C)** Antenna (scale bar = 100 μm).

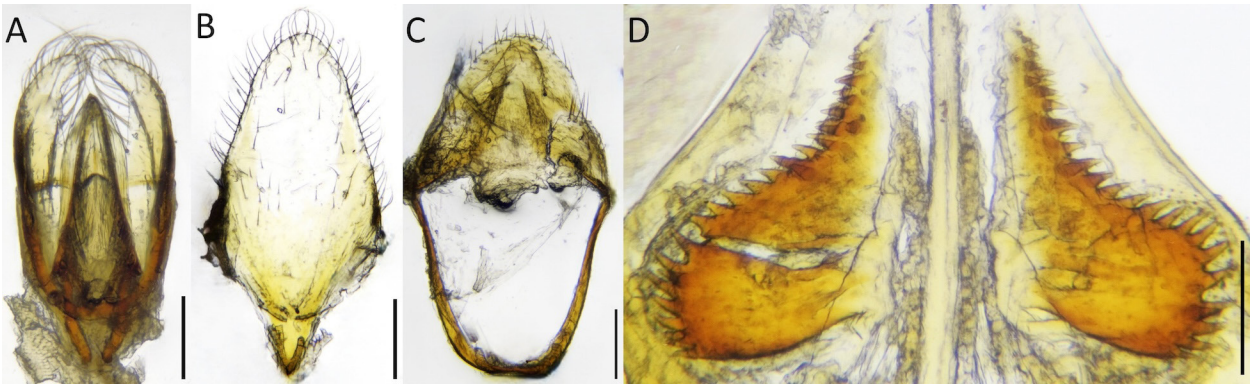

Figure 4. *Attagenus vitalii* Holloway and Herrmann **sp. nov. A)** Holotype aedeagus. **B)** Holotype sternite IX. **C)** Holotype tergite IX. **D)** Paratype sclerites in bursa copulatrix. All scale bars = 100 μm.

Description, external characteristics. Holotype (Fig. 3), BL = 3.65 mm, BW = 2.0 mm, BW/BL = 0.56. Single ocellus on head (Fig. 3A) level with top of bulbous eyes. Integument of head and pronotum dark brown. Head from vertex to labrum coated in bright yellow hairs. Pronotum with bright yellow hairs apart from small patch of dark hairs on disk.

Scutellar shield brown, triangular. Elytral integument brown. Hairs of elytra brownish-cream and dark brown. Cream hairs arranged in three fasciae: sub-basal, sub-medial, and pre-apical. Sub-basal fascia starting at lateral margin behind shoulder, slanting down across elytra and then up towards, but not reaching, scutellar shield. Scutellar shield bordered by brown hairs. Halves of sub-basal fascia meet at elytral suture. Sub-medial fascia consisting of five, tightly connected patches of brownish cream hairs lying in straight, horizontal line across each elytron apart from the 3rd patch of the series which lies slightly posterior to the other four patches. The two halves of the fascia do not meet at elytral suture. The sub-apical fascia consists of two patches of brownish cream hairs on each elytron, wider than long, and loosely connected to each other. The two halves of the fascia do not meet at elytral suture. Patches of brownish cream hairs at elytral apices that do not extend inwards to meet elytral suture.

Ventrite (Fig. 3B) integument brown. Central part of ventrites 2 and 3 and outer parts of ventrite 1 with bright yellow hairs. Outer parts of ventrites 2 and 3, all of ventrites 4 and 5 with reddish brown hairs.

Antenna (Fig. 3C) with 11 black antennomeres. Antennomeres 1 and 2 globular, antennomeres 3–8 transverse (antennomere 8 disk-shaped), antennomeres 9–11 forming elongated club. Antennomere 9 longer than antennomere 10. Terminal antennomere longer than antennomeres 9 and 10 combined. Terminal antennomere elongate, with relatively pointed, evenly convex tip.

Description, internal characteristics. Paramere (Fig. 4A, PL = 320 μm) bases narrow, heavily sclerotized rods running along dorsal edges of anterior halves of parameres, joined to form convex base to aedeagus. At halfway, these sclerotized edges join to form bridge across aedeagus. Above bridge, parameres pale yellow to off-white. Outer margins diverge from base to just beyond bridge before evenly curving inwards towards each other. Posterior paramere tips with many long, wavy setae along outer margin and inner margin, but fewer across disk. In between these long setae, a few, scattered faint setae down to bridge. Median lobe (ML = 320 μm) with thick sclerotized marginal rods in anterior half, thinner in posterior half. Marginal rods continue anteriad to form two convergent stirrups. Margins of median lobe almost straight (slightly concave). Tissue between marginal rods yellow. Tip of median lobe sharp, falling short of paramere tips but barely extending beyond soft pad on ventral surface of median lobe. Ventral pad with mostly convex margins, sinuate in anterior half.

Sternite IX (Fig. 4B, SL = 425 μm) with single, anterior attachment point. From attachment point margins diverge to maximum width clearly below halfway. From there margins converge to slightly pointed, convex posterior margin. Anterior half of sternite and up part of the submarginal region yellow. Posterior margin, down some of the lateral margins and onto disk white. Lateral and posterior margins with long, black setae, curving progressively more inwards towards the apex of the sternite. Some curved setae sub-posterior margin and some straight

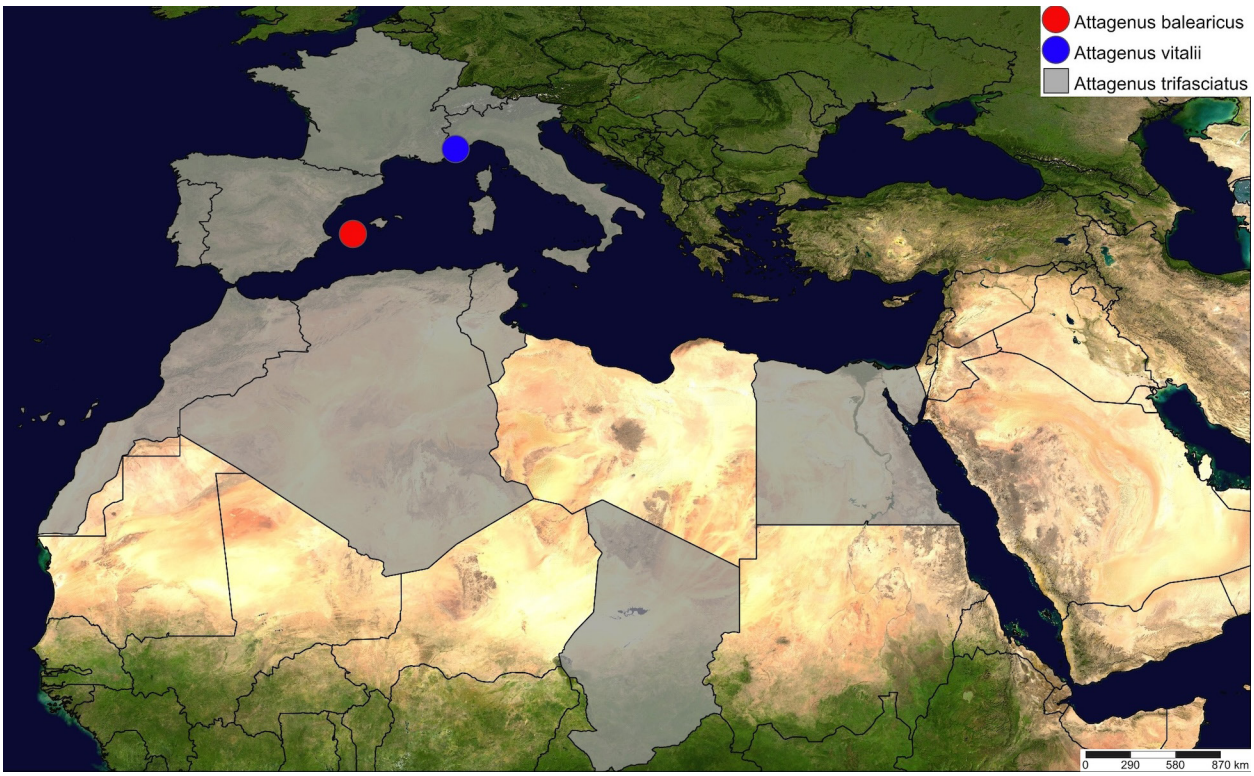

Figure 5. Collection locations of type specimens of *Attagenus bealaricus* and *Attagenus vitalii* **sp. nov.**, and geographical range of *Attagenus trifasciatus*.

setae on disk of sternite clustering around interface between yellow and white tissue. Some setae on the sternite disk more than halfway to anterior end. Tergite IX (Fig. 4C) with yellow posterior lobe. Posterior margin carrying sharp, straight setae. Just over halfway down towards base of posterior lobe line of four or five long, straight setae spread from the lateral margin in towards the disk along a horizontal line of white tissue.

The bursa copulatrix (Fig. 4D, ScL = 275 μm) contained two, reddish brown sclerites with short posterior stems carrying many short, stout teeth spread across three or four rows. Each stem expands to form a broad anterior paddle with a squarish outer margin and a slightly convex anterior margin. Around the outer paddle margin there is a single row of long, narrow teeth. The sclerites are strongly sclerotized throughout.

Etymology. *Attagenus vitalii* is named after Francesco Vitali from the National Museum of Natural History in Luxembourg, a renowned specialist in Cerambycidae.

Distribution. Figure 5 shows the points of collection of *A. balearicus* and *A. vitalii*. It also shows the distribution of *A. trifasciatus* according to Háva (2025). The focus of the *A. trifasciatus* distribution is the region around the western Mediterranean (the outliers, Chad and Egypt, might turn out to be records of different species). The new species were collected from within the *A. trifasciatus* range, making it a suitable comparison species.

Differential diagnosis. Specimens of *Attagenus trifasciatus* from Spain (Torrox, nr Malaga: 31 specimens (GHEC), Sierra Espuña Natural Park, nr Fuente del Hilo: 6 specimens (AHEC)) and France (Vaucluse, Auberges des Seguins: 1 specimen (AHEC)) were examined. *Attagenus trifasciatus* habitus (Fig. 6A) integument is black. The hairs on the head are yellow and there are yellow hairs along the base of the pronotum. Just behind the scutellar shield on the pronotum, the yellow hairs form a heart shape with black hair at its centre. The relatively narrow sub-basal fascia on the elytra consists of connected patches of silvery hairs. The fascia zigzags across the elytra but is essentially horizontal. The silvery hairs on each elytron meet at the elytral suture, turn upwards and reach the base of the scutellar shield. The sub-medial fascia consists of four or five loosely connected patches of silvery hairs that zigzag across the elytra but stop just short of the elytral suture. The sub-apical fascia consists of

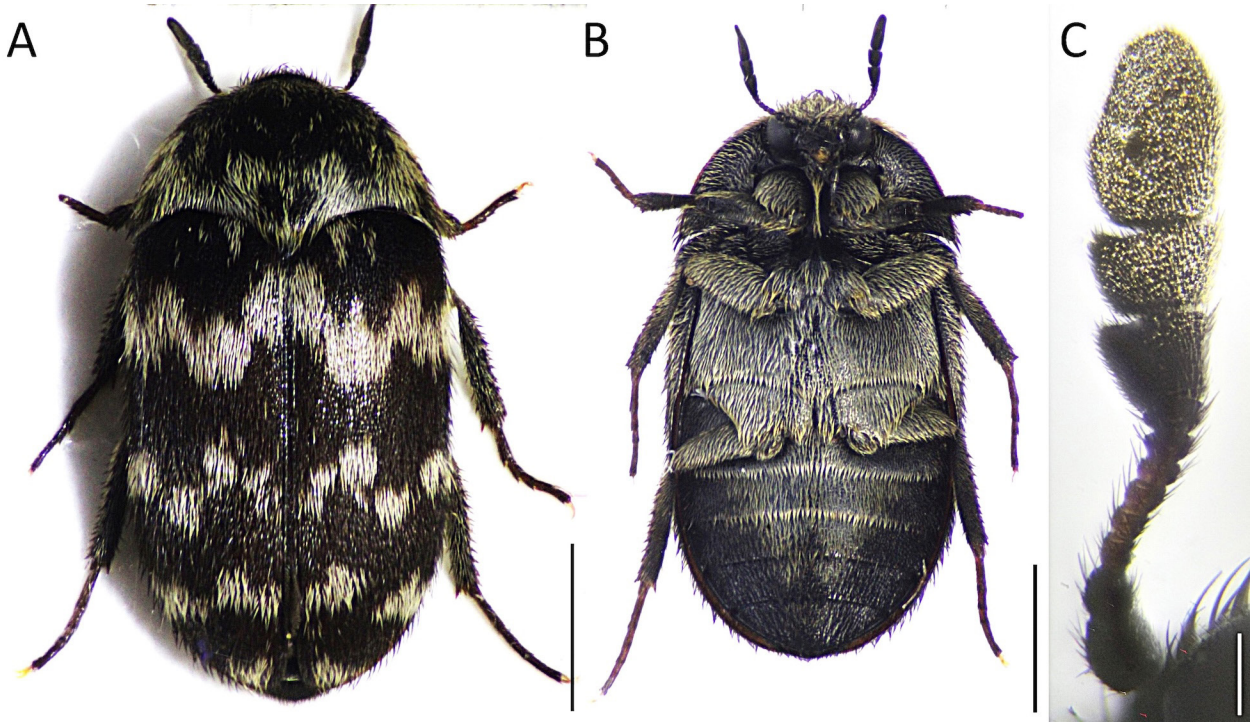

Figure 6. *Attagenus trifasciatus* male. **A)** Habitus (scale bar = 1 mm). **B)** Ventral surface (scale bar = 1 mm). **C)** Antenna (scale bar = 100 μm).

two disconnected patches on each elytron. The apical patches of silvery hairs are neat and small. The patch of pale hairs at the elytral base is forked. There are silvery hairs crossing ventrite I (Fig. 6B), across most of ventrite 2 but not the margins, only on ventrite 3 disk, otherwise all hairs on the ventrites are black. Antennomeres (Fig. 6C) 3–7/8 are yellow. The terminal antennomere is broad.

Attagenus trifasciatus median lobe (Fig. 7A) has sinuate lateral margins and a narrow convex tip. The tip terminates at the end of the very broad pad on the ventral side of the median lobe. Sternite IX (Fig. 7B) has long, strong marginal setae down to the widest part of the sternite. There are many sub-posterior marginal setae. Setae are scattered across the sternite as well as forming two lines of setae following the interface between the white and the light brown tissue. Tergite IX (Fig. 7C) has two large, white, marginal patches towards the bottom of the posterior lobe with a small tuft of weak setae on the marginal anterior corner of each patch. The sclerites of the bursa copulatrix (Fig. 7D, mean ScL = 295 μm) have long posterior stems, with stout, more widely spaced, more broadly triangular teeth lining the margins, double row along the posterior stem and onto the paddles, thereafter a single row of teeth, and the anterior paddles have rounded tips with strongly convex anterior margins. The outer and anterior margins are heavily sclerotized.

Key to species of *Attagenus* considered in the current study (external features)

1. Dorsal and ventral integument black, elytral fasciae with silvery grey hairs, ventrites with pale grey hairs across ventrite 1 and disks of ventrite 2 and 3, otherwise black hairs throughout . . . . . ***Attagenus trifasciatus* (Fabricius)**

— Elytral integument obviously brown, elytral fasciae yellowish brown, at least some ventrites with yellow hairs 2

2. Small (mostly < 3.5 mm), male terminal antennomere with squarish tip, posterior margin of pronotum with yellow hairs with two projections either side and in front of scutellar shield pointing anteriad, some yellow hairs along lateral and anterior margin of pronotum but otherwise large area of

Figure 7. *Attagenus trifasciatus* **A)** Aedeagus. **B)** Sternite IX. **C)** Tergite IX. **D)** Sclerites in bursa copulatrix. All scale bars = 100 µm.

pronotal disk with black hairs, ventrites entirely covered in yellow hairs . . . . . .
. . . . . ***Attagenus balearicus* Holloway and Herrmann, n. sp.**

— Larger (mostly > 3.5 mm), male terminal antennomere rounded, pronotum with long, yellow hairs apart from black hairs on smaller central section of disk, ventrite 1 and central parts of ventrites 2 and 3 with yellow hairs, lateral sections of ventrites 2 and 3 and all of ventrites 4 and 5 with brown hairs . . . . . ***Attagenus vitalii* Holloway and Herrmann, n. sp.**

Discussion

The study represents the first foray into the taxonomy of the *Attagenus trifasciatus* group of species in western Mediterranean. All the species clumped into the *A. trifasciatus* group by Háva (2025) were described in the 18th or 19th centuries (although Holloway et al. (in press) have redescribed *A. trifasciatus*) apart from *A. barbieri* so it would not be surprising to find the taxonomy requires attention.

The two new species described here were both found on the edge of the *A. trifasciatus* range. As more work on Dermestidae is carried out, more new edge of range species are being found. This is not limited to *Attagenus*; new *Dermestes* Linnaeus (Holloway and Herrmann 2025b) and *Anthrenus* species (Holloway 2019, 2020, 2024; Holloway and Herrmann 2025a) have also been described from the edges of ranges of more common species. Of particular interest is the new *Attagenus* species described from Ibiza in this respect. Several Coleoptera have been found only on the Balearics (Mallorca) including *Anthrenus amandae* Holloway, 2019 and *Globicornis peckhamae* Holloway and Cañada Luna, 2023 (Holloway and Cañada Luna 2023), both Dermestidae, and *Anthaxia amandae* Holloway, 2024 (Buprestidae). There is no evidence yet that any of these species can be found beyond the Balearics, so all of them, including *Attagenus balearicus* could be island endemics.

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