

A taxonomic review of the genus *Akermes* Cockerell. (Abstract only)

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The presence of multilocular pores with more than one central pore has been considered one of the distinguishing characters of *Akermes* (Hodgson 1994, Granara de Willink 1999). However, this type of multilocular pore is observed only in *A. bruneri*, *A. lanigerus* and *A. riograndensis*, and is considered of no generic importance. The genus *Akermes* differs from other members in the Myzolecaniinae by the presence of spiracular setae that are found extending onto the dorsal submargin, by the absence of ventral tubular ducts, and by greatly reduced limbs with segments mostly indistinct or fused. Presently, 13 species are included in the genus *Akermes*, however only 6 are properly placed in the genus. These are *A. bruneri*, *A. cordiae*, *A. lanigerus*, *A. punctatus*, *A. riograndensis*, and *A. townsendi*. *Akermes xylosma* Granara de Willink is here considered a junior synonym of *A. lanigerus*. *Akermes verrucosus* was not available in the present study and is presumably lost since it was not found in the Vienna Museum of Natural History where the type should be deposited. *Akermes colimae* does not fit in any known genus. *Akermes montanus* described from India is not congeneric with either New World or Australian *Akermes* (Kondo & Williams, 2002). *Akermes montanus* belongs to the unrelated subfamily Eulecaniinae and is most closely related to *Eulecanium tiliae* (L.). *Akermes colae* from Africa belongs to the tribe Paralecaniini in the subfamily Coccinae. The available material of *A. monilis* consists of pieces of old highly sclerotized adult females. It is not related to *Akermes*, and the only similar character is the presence of a large sclerotic area around the anal plates. The presence of numerous sharply spinose marginal setae arranged in two rows, mixed with much longer sharply spinose setae with strongly bent tips are characteristic, and separates *A. monilis* from any other species assigned to *Akermes*. *Akermes levis* is a junior synonym of *A. scrobiculatus* (P.J. Gullan, personal communication). *Akermes pingue* and *A. scrobiculatus* are being redescribed by Hodgson and Gullan, who are transferring these two species to a new genus. A key to the six species belonging to *Akermes* is given.

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