ECOLOGICAL AND TAXONOMIC STUDIES OF FAMILY DERMESTIDAE (COLEOPTERA) IN A. R. EGYPT

THESIS

Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements
For the Award of the Degree of
MASTER OF SCIENCE

By

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(B. Sc.)

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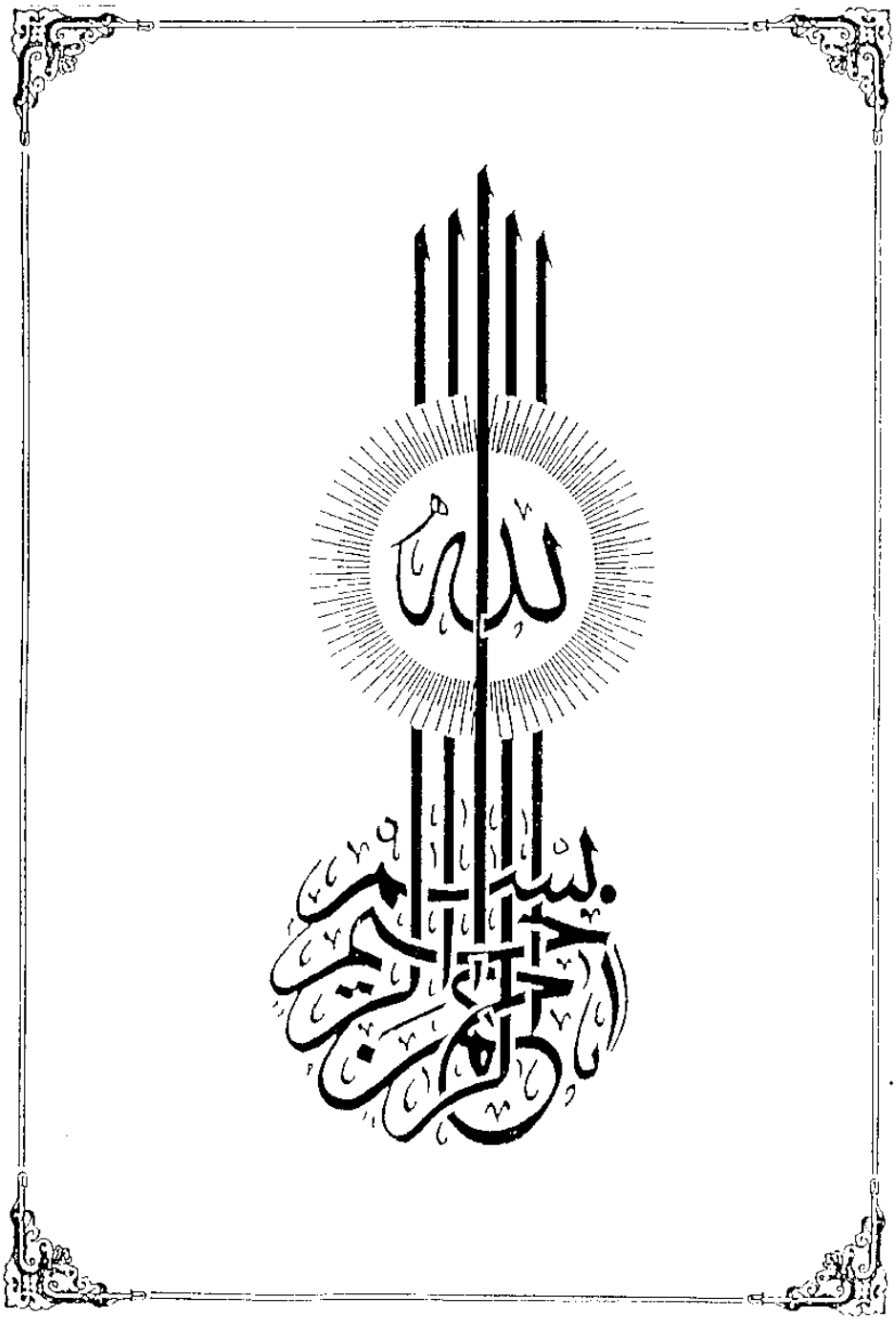

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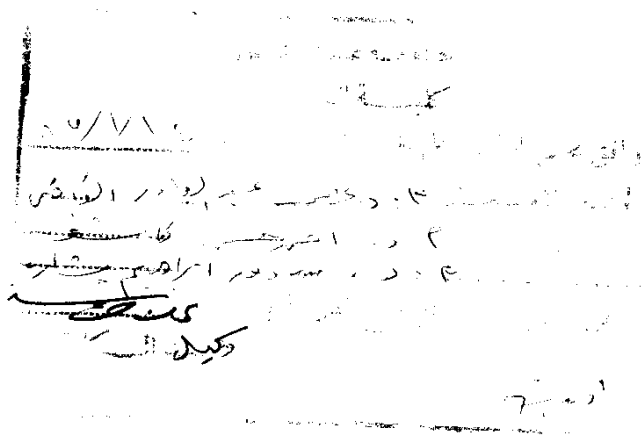

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INTRODUCTION

I. INTRODUCTION

Dermestids or skin beetles include a number of very destructive and economically important species. The dermestids are mostly scavengers and feed on a very wide variety of materials of both animal and vegetable origin. They feed on dried or smoked fish and meat of various kinds, cheese, dried milk, dried blood, bones, skin and hides, hair, furs, feathers, carpets, woollen clothes, silk, and materials containing these substances.

The larvae are chiefly responsible for the losses incurred through the attacks of dermestids. The adults of many genera e.g. Anthrenus and Trogoderma do not eat the larval food but normally feed out-of-doors in flowers, on pollen or nectar. The larger dermestids feed on a variety of stored foods including meat and cheese and occasionally damage the specimens in insect collections. Some of the smaller dermestids are often common in houses and may do serious damage to carpets, collections and clothing. Many are serious pests in homes, markets , and food storage places. Adult carpet beetles are active, attracted to day light, and are often found about windows and out of doors upon flowers as Convolvulus arvensis feeding on pollen.

Aim of the present work:

The present work deals with the study of the following points:

1. Survey and distribution of family Dermestidae in Egypt.
2. External morphology of Anthrenus fasciatus (Herbst) as a family representative to understand the terms followed in the taxonomic part.
3. Systematic study of the family Dermestidae in A.R. Egypt.