

***Puelchesia gracilis*, a new genus and species of Pachydemini
endemic to the Monte biogeographic province in Argentina
(Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae)**

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Abstract

A new scarab beetle genus and species, *Puelchesia gracilis*, is described based on specimens collected in the Monte biogeographic province of west central Argentina. This genus is placed in the tribe Pachydemini based on an evaluation of the characters within the context of the current classification of the subfamily Melolonthinae. The distribution and natural history of the taxon is also discussed.

Key words: Argentina, new species, Pachydemini, Melolonthinae

Resumen

Puelchesia gracilis, nuevo género y nueva especie, es descrito en base a ejemplares colectados en la provincia biogeográfica del Monte and el centro Oeste de Argentina. Éste género es ubicado en la tribu Pachidemini en base a la evaluación de caracteres en el contexto de la clasificación actual de Melolonthinae. La distribución e historia natural del taxon son discutidos.

Introduction

During one night of collecting near the southern border of Mendoza Province in central Argentina, we collected numerous specimens of a new melolonthine species and genus. Subsequently, a number of additional specimens were discovered in museum collections. The new taxon has a set of characters that places it within the tribe Pachydemini in the current classification scheme of the subfamily Melolonthinae (Scarabaeidae) (Evans