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Article

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A new species of *Pachydema* Laporte (Coleoptera: Scarabaeoidea: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae: Pachydemini) from the Canary Islands

ESTEFANÍA MICÓ[1] & EDUARDO GALANTE[1]

[1]*Centro Iberoamericano de la Biodiversidad (CIBIO), Universidad de Alicante, 03080 Alicante, Spain.*
E-mail: e.mico@ua.es, galante@ua.es

Abstract

Pachydema megalops **sp. nov**., a new species from Gran Canaria (Canary Islands, Spain) is described and illustrated. A key to all Canarian *Pachydema* Laporte species and illustrations of diagnostic structures are provided.

Key words: New taxon, systematics, key, Gran Canaria, Spain

Resumen

Se describe e ilustra a *Pachydema megalops* **sp. nov**., una nueva especie de Gran Canaria (Islas Canarias, España). Se proporciona una clave para todas las especies canarias de *Pachydema* Laporte con ilustraciones de los caracteres diagnósticos.

Introduction

The genus *Pachydema* Laporte includes 98 species distributed in the Canary Islands (Spain) through northern Africa and the Sinai Peninsula (Baraud 1985, Lacroix 2007). Based on taxonomic reviews (see Lacroix 2000), a total of 16 species of *Pachydema* are known from the Canary Islands and all 16 species are endemic. The Canary Islands are an Atlantic archipelago with seven islets and seven main islands, and was formed in the past 20 million years by volcanic eruptions. Endemism is high in this archipelago; about 50% of the terrestrial invertebrate fauna (*c.* 6500 species) are endemic (Juan *et al*. 2000). The large, central islands (Tenerife and Gran Canaria) have the highest biodiversity of plants and many Coleoptera groups (Machado 2002). This pattern is generally also seen with *Pachydema*, although the smaller La Gomera Island (370 km^2) also has high species richness with six species.

In this paper we describe a new species of *Pachydema* from Gran Canaria, illustrate the diagnostic characters and provide an illustrated key to differentiate it from the Canarian species previously described.

Material and methods

The morphological characters and terms used in the descriptions are those of D'Hotman & Scholtz (1990), Nel & Scholtz (1990) and Micó (2001). Drawings were made with the aid of a camera lucida and stereomicroscope. The hand-drawn illustrations were scanned and edited using computer software. Measurements were made using an ocular micrometer, except for the total body size, which was measured from the apex of the clypeus to the apex of elytra using a caliper. Specimens were deposited in the following

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