



## Dasytidae of the Egadi Archipelago (Coleoptera, Cleroidea) with description of *Danacea hierena* n. sp.

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### Abstract

Ten Dasytidae species have been found to be present in the Egadi islands, one of which—*Danacea hierena* n. sp.—is endemic of the whole Archipelago and is here described. Excluding the new species, no other endemic has been found and the Egadi Dasytidae fauna appears to be rather similar to the Sicilian one. *Dasytes croceipes* Kiesenwetter, 1866 is reported new for Sicily.

**Key words:** *Aplocnemus*, *Danacea*, *Dasytidius*, *Dasytes*, *Divales*, *Psilothrix*, Sicilian fauna, new species, new records

### Introduction

The Egadi Archipelago, located at the western end of Sicily, opposite of the coast between Marsala and Trapani, includes three islands: Favignana (19 Km<sup>2</sup>, max. elevation 309 m), Levanzo (10 Km<sup>2</sup>, max. elevation 278 m) and Marettimo (12 Km<sup>2</sup>, max. elevation 686 m). Favignana and Levanzo are rather close: less than 4 Km from each other, the former being about 8 Km, and the latter about 12 Km, from the Sicilian coast; Marettimo is further west, approximately 15 Km from Favignana and more than 30 Km from the Sicilian coast. The maximum depth of the sea between Sicily and Favignana (and Levanzo) is about 40 m, whereas between Marettimo and Favignana is approximately 140 m (Francini Corti & Lanza 1973, Lanza 1973, Massa 1995).

Literature dealing with flora and fauna of the Egadi Archipelago is rather abundant: particularly the Marettimo flora appears to be rather well known (see for example Gianguzzi *et al.* 2006). The Archipelago terrestrial fauna has been the subject of various contributions, several of which concerning Coleoptera: Cantharidae Malthininae (Svihla 2009), Carabidae (Magistretti 1970, Magrini *et al.* 2001), Cerambycidae (Hellrigl 1971), Chrysomelidae (Daccordi & Ruffo 1974), Curculionidae (Magnano & Osella 1973), Staphylinidae (Bordoni 1973), Tenebrionidae (Aliquò 1993, Canzoneri 1970, Marcuzzi 1970). The general conclusion is that the Egadi arthropods fauna is strictly related to the Sicilian one; Favignana and Levanzo have a rather reduced insular character (only a few endemics have been reported for these islands) whereas Marettimo, isolated from Sicily since a longer time, has a higher number of (supposedly) strict endemics; furthermore several among the wide distribution species found on Marettimo have never been collected both on the nearby two islands and on Sicily. The Egadi fauna, notwithstanding the attention received, still is far from being well known: several groups deserve investigation efforts and new endemic species are likely to be discovered in the future. It is particularly so for the Dasytidae: only two species were until now recorded for Marettimo and just one for Favignana and Levanzo (Liberti 1985, 1995b).