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Gorditus rotundus, a new genus and species of Pentodontini from Cuba (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae)

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Abstract

Gorditus rotundus, a new genus and species of pentodontine, is described from Cuba. A key to the genera of Dynastinae occurring in Cuba is provided.

Key words: Scarabaeidae, Dynastinae, Cuba, new genus, new species

There are unexplored universes at our feet.
Somehow, we need to learn to see the divine,
even if it's in the form of a diminutive scarab beetle
that once pushed the sun across the heavens.
—Tom Parker

Introduction

Members of the subfamily Dynastinae (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae) occur in all the major temperate and tropical terrestrial biogeographic regions of the world. Although approximately 1,500 species of dynastines are now known, the world fauna will probably reach 2,000 species (Endrödi 1985; Ratcliffe and Cave 2006). More species are found in the New World tropics than in any other realm. Along with my colleague, Dr. Ronald Cave, we are in the initial stages of conducting a biotic survey and inventory of the Dynastinae of the West Indies (see Ratcliffe 1976, 1986; Ratcliffe and Cave 2008, 2010 a–b; Ratcliffe and Dechambre1983; Ratcliffe and Ivie 1998).

The Dynastinae of Cuba were reviewed by Chapin (1932, 1935), who recorded 10 genera and 19 species. Blackwelder (1944) reported nine genera and 26 species from Cuba; he did not list *Mimeoma* Casey, which resulted in a lower number of genera than that of Chapin. Endrödi (1985) recorded nine genera and 18 species from Cuba, which probably reflects the lower number of collections and specimens he consulted for his study material. Peck (2005) recorded eight genera and 30 species in his checklist of Cuban Coleoptera. Based upon the records that I have seen, I believe there are 11 genera of Dynastinae in Cuba, including the new genus described here, and a key to those genera is provided below.

Little work has been done on the Cuban dynastine fauna in the last 50 years. This is probably a result of relatively few specimens residing in collections outside of Cuba, either modern or pre-revolution, combined with the often greater difficulties in collecting or conducting research in Cuba today. I also believe there has never really been a concerted effort to document the scarab biodiversity of Cuba, especially in the era before modern light traps, and so the possibility remains for many new discoveries. These discoveries may be most likely to occur in the Sierra Maestra and Sierra Cristal in the southeast, Sierra del Escambray in the center of the country (from whence this new genus came), and the Sierra del Rosario in the northwest, which is a

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