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## A new species of *Tomarus* Erichson, 1847 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Pentodontini), with a key to the species in Colombia

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### Abstract

A new *Tomarus* Erichson, 1847 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Pentodontini) species is described from western Colombia. The new species is compared with *Tomarus laevicollis* (Bates, 1888) from Central America. An identification key is also provided to the species occurring in the country.

**Key words:** taxonomy, scarab beetles, pentodontines, morphology, South America

### Introduction

*Tomarus* Erichson, 1847 (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Dynastinae: Pentodontini) is the most diverse and widespread New World genus of Pentodontini (Endrödi 1985). Twenty-nine species have been described to date, 12 of which are restricted to South America. Nine species occur in Venezuela (Escalona & Joly 2006), while six species were thought to occur in Colombia (Endrödi 1985). Recently, *T. similis* Endrödi, 1968 was recorded by Neita-Moreno (2011) and Otavo *et al.* (2013) in Chocó and Amazonas, respectively. Nevertheless, due to the lack of a taxonomic revision, it is highly probably that the richness of the genus is being underestimated in Colombia.

Species of *Tomarus* can be differentiated from other pentodontines by having an attenuate clypeus narrowed at the apex and with two small teeth on the anterior margin; frontoclypeal region with two tubercles or a transverse carina, interrupted or not; tibiae usually tridentate and pronotal tubercle and fovea present or not. Their coloration varies from black to piceous, rarely reddish brown. Body length ranges from 13–30 mm.

Although very little is known about the natural history of the genus, the adults are thought to have nocturnal habits (Ratcliffe 2003). At least four species of *Tomarus* are considered as agricultural pests of crops, *e.g.*, *Helianthus annuus* Linnaeus (Asteraceae) (sunflower) and *Colocasia esculenta* (Linnaeus) Schott (Araceae) (Andreazze & Fonseca 1998, Escalona & Joly 2006, Piedrahíta *et al.* 2007). However, specific data about host plants could be erroneous due to the morphological homogeneity of *Tomarus* species, which makes identification problematic and leading to confusion. Therefore, in this genus considerable reliance must be placed on the shape of the male parameres for making correct identifications in most cases (Ratcliffe 2003).

We describe herein a new species of *Tomarus* from Colombia, including a comparison with *T. laevicollis* (Bates, 1888), which is the most similar species in external morphology and shape of the parameres. We also include a taxonomic key to the species occurring in this country.

Drawings were made with the aid of a camera lucida and stereomicroscope, and measurements were obtained using an ocular micrometer. Specimens examined were provided by the following collections:

CIUQ—Colección de Insectos de la Universidad del Quindío, Armenia, Colombia.

ICN-MHN—Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia.

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