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A new record of *Dialithus magnificus* Parry (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Trichiini) in Mexico

Un nuevo registro de *Dialithus magnificus* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Cetoniinae: Trichiini) en México

Little is known about the Central American genus *Dialithus* Parry, 1849. Only two species are known: *D. magnificus* Parry, 1849, with a distribution from Mexico to Costa Rica (Howden, 1972), and *D. scintillans* Howden, 1972, found only in Panama. Despite the large range of distribution of *Dialithus magnificus* and the attractive aspect of the adults, published records of specimens are scarce (Morón et al., 1997).

Dialithus magnificus was described by Parry (1849) based on two females collected in "the upper province of Mexico" without any precise geographic references. Later on, Bates (1889) reported the existence of this species in Chontales, Nicaragua. Kraatz (1897), almost 40 years later, studied the first known male of this species, proposing a new variety of the species: *D. magnificus* var. *castaneipennis*, a name currently considered to be a synonym of *D. magnificus* Parry. The specimen studied by Kraatz was collected in Chiapas, but once again, no further information about the location was provided.

Howden (1968), as part of a long term treaty on the taxonomy of North and Central American Trichiini, stated that the, then monotypic, genus *Dialithus* could be easily separated from the other New World Trichiini by many unusual characters, and that it was difficult to decide which ones might be considered at the generic level. Subsequently, *D. scintillans* Howden and *D. festivus* Howden were described, and *D. magnificus* redescribed (Howden 1972). There, a summary of all records of *D. magnificus* known to date was given: 10 specimens collected in Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica in cloud forest regions ranging from approximately 1,000 to 1,500 meters above sea level (Morón et al., 1997). Additional records of *Dialithus magnificus* from Mexico were not subsequently reported. The only additional reference in literature was made by Gillett (2008) for Belize. The species *Dialithus festivus* was later transferred by Howden (1988) to his new genus *Giesbertiolus*.

The scarcity of specimens might be related to the habits of this species, as they are specialized pollen feeders in the forest canopy (Li and Yang, 1999), similar to other related trichiines like *Iridisoma acahuizotlensis* (Delgado-Castillo and Morón, 1991).

As part of a recent study of the biodiversity in the Uxpanapa region, a specimen of *Dialithus magnificus* (Fig. 1) was observed on 16 May 2013 at approximately noon. The specimen was standing on a shrub within a tropical rainforest fragment, found 2 km east of Ejido Arroyo Zarco in the Municipality of Uxpanapa, Veracruz, Mexico (17° 12' 17.6" N; 94° 28' 4.6" O, 396 masl). The specimen, a female, has a total length of 21.1 mm from the anterior border of the clypeus to the apex of the pygidium and has a maximum width of 9.5 mm. These and other morphological

characteristics coincide with the diagnosis given by Howden (1972). The specimen was captured manually and was deposited in the entomological collection of Instituto de Ecología, A. C. Xalapa, Mexico (IEXA).

This is the first specimen reported from Mexico in literature since 1972. This finding represents the first precise locality of *Dialithus magnificus* in Mexico and also the first record of this species from the state of Veracruz. A new lower altitudinal limit for this species was also set, which was 600 m lower than the previously known range according to Morón et al. (1997), as well as a new record for the associated vegetation type of this species: tropical rain forest.

Based on the available information, there is a possibility that this species is also distributed in the area belonging to the Chimalapas region in the adjacent state of Oaxaca due to its similar vegetation and environmental conditions. In order to advance in the knowledge of the distribution, natural history and conservation status of this species, it is necessary to do field work in the localities where the species has been reported, as well as in potential areas of distribution, including forest canopy.

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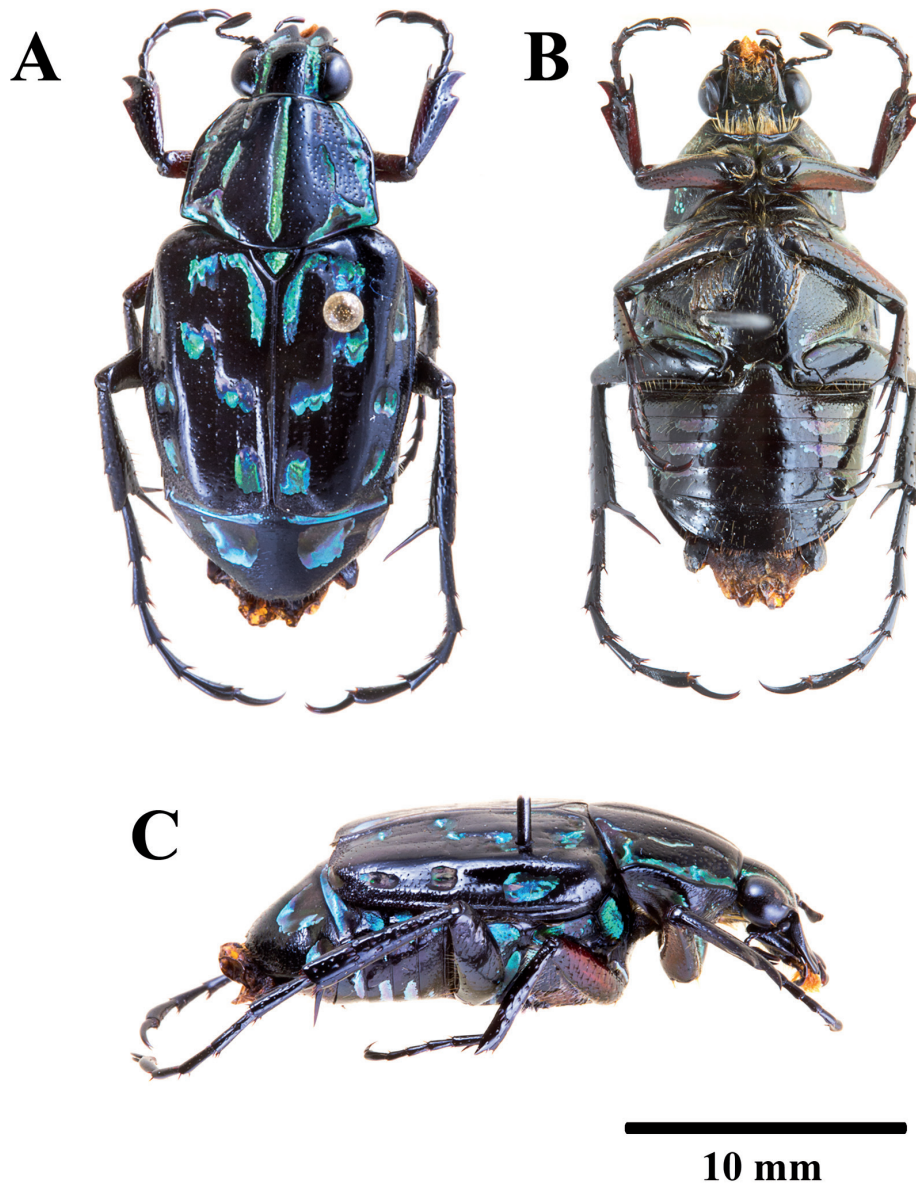


Figure 1. *Dialithus magnificus* female habitus. (A) Dorsal. (B) Ventral. (C) Lateral.