

B O C A G I A N A

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ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF ACROTRICHIS SANCTAEHELENÆ JOHNSON (COL., PTILIIDAE)

By Colin Johnson *

Acrotrichis (Ctenopteryx) sanctaehelenae was recently described (Johnson 1972: 94-5) on a series of specimens collected during 1965 and 1967 high up in the mountains of St. Helena. Because the species had not been encountered by Wollaston in his researches prior to 1877, it was thought that the species was an introduction, perhaps from South America, where this group seems to be best represented. Quite a lot of additional material has now come to hand, which sheds more light on the matter.

A. matthewsi (Wollaston) was recorded from the Azores by Méquignon (1942: 27), and although this material had not been seen by the present writer, the record was considered to be erroneous (Johnson 1970: 69). Of late I have been able to study three of Méquignon's specimens, which he collected at Furnas during 1930; these are not *matthewsi*, as believed, but are *sanctaehelenae*.

During July 1970, my colleague Dr. H. Coiffait sent me a number of *Acrotrichis* which he had collected near Faro, southern Portugal. Amongst some fairly common species were found two males and eleven females of *sanctaehelenae*. Since then my friend Alex Williams has met with the species commonly in the Atlantic islands. In May 1971, 125 specimens were sieved from rotting cacti and vegetable refuse at Puerto de la Cruz, Tenerife, whilst he found a further 47 specimens by sieving leafmould at Funchal, Madeira, during April 1972. It seems likely that the species recorded by Sundt (1963: 27-8) as near to *grandicollis*

*) Department of Entomology, Manchester Museum, The University, Manchester, M13 9PL, England

(Mannerheim), from Funchal, 9-16.VI.1957, is probably also the present species.

Thus in the present state of our knowledge, *sanctahelenae* seems to be truly an Atlantic species.

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