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AN ECHINODERA WOLLASTON FROM THE SALVAGE ISLANDS (COLEOPTERA, CURCULIONIDAE)

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With 6 figures

RESUMO. No presente trabalho, uma espécie nova, *Echinodera* (s. str.) *pallida* n. sp., colhida nas Ilhas Selvagens é descrita. São ilustradas as genitálias masculinas desta espécie assim como de outras duas das Canárias.

ABSTRACT. *Echinodera* (s. str.) *pallida* n. sp. collected in the Salvage Islands is described. Its male genitalia, as well as those of two Canarian species, are illustrated.

The genus *Echinodera* was distinguished by Wollaston (1864) to comprise six Canarian species. It was later also found to be represented in the Mediterranean area but as far as Macaronesia is concerned Wollaston's system is still safely maintained and more recently confirmed by addition of new characters (Roudier, 1954). This picture of constancy is now being somewhat modified by the description of a new species from another archipelago.

Echinodera (s. str.) **pallida** n. sp.

Figs. 3 and 6

Type material. Data appearing from attached labels (type labels excepted) are between quotation marks. The following general information was provided by G. E. Maul (in litt.). The MMF numbers refer to the

* *Bredgatan 9F, S-22221 Lund — Sweden*

catalogue of the Museu Municipal do Funchal. The entire material was collected by G. E. Maul.

Holotype, ♀: «Selvagem Grande, 20.8.1970, unter *Nicotiana glauca* und *Mesembrianthemum*», «*Acalles neptunus* Woll.», MMF 23720, in the Museu Municipal, Funchal.

Paratypes: 3 ♂♂ (MMF 23717-23719), 1 ♀ (MMF 23716), all unlabelled but undoubtedly collected together with the holotype, deposited as holotype; 1 ♀ «548 Selvagem Gr.», MMF 548 (according to the catalogue: *Echinodera*, Selvagem Grande, 20.7.39, Maul leg., C. A. K. Marshall det.), in the Institut für Biologiedidaktik der Justus Liebig Universität, Giessen; 1 ♀, «Selvagem Grande on dry *Mesembryanthemum crystallinum*, 20.8.1970, leg. Maul», in coll. H. Franz; 1 ♀ «Selvagem Pequena, Pico Veado, under *Bassia tomentosa*, 21.8.1970», in coll. H. Franz.

Body 3.1-3.5 × 1.8-2.2 mm, pear-shaped; upper side greyish yellow with brown markings, apical part of rostrum blackish brown, femora somewhat infuscated, tarsi and antennae reddish; covered by greyish yellow, yellowish white, brownish and blackish scales and setae; scales very dense, imbricate, rounded, attached near center; setae scattered, 2-3 times as long as broad, with convex sides.

Rostrum with basal vestiture reaching level of antennal insertion or somewhat farther in both sexes; apical portion slightly shorter and slightly more coarsely punctate in male than in female. First segment of antennal funicle strongly dilated apically and a trifle longer than second.

Pronotum about 1.2 times longer than broad with a slight constriction near apex and largest breadth before base, coarsely punctate; each puncture with a short, dark, suberect seta. Base with a small, white, median patch and on each side a larger dark area.

Elytra slightly longer than broad, laterally and posteriorly rounded. Striae with punctures about as broad as interstriae; stria 10 indistinct apicad; striae 4-7 distinct up to anterior margin. Interstriae flattened, rugulose, with a single, occasionally double, irregular row of slightly raised setae; interstriae 4 and 5, to some extent also 1-3 and 8 brown at base, 6 (in outer part) and 7 however white. Behind middle a jagged, broken, transverse brown fascia followed by whitish fascia and apically by scattered brown spots.

Legs short, tarsal segment 3 distinctly broader than foregoing.

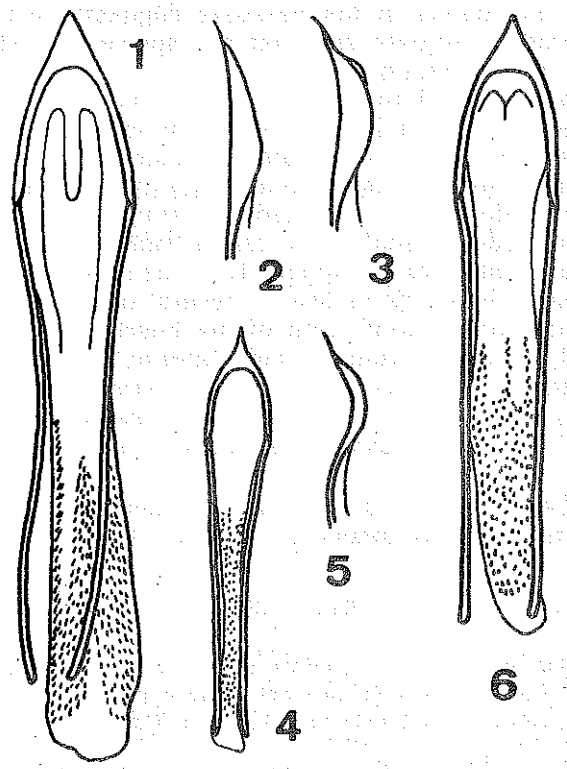
Underside coarsely but not densely punctate. Abdominal segment 1 three times as long as segment 2 being as long as 3 and 4 together.

Penis as in Figs. 3 and 6; apical portion moderately sharply pointed, with slightly concave sides.

Roudier (1954) divided the Canarian species into two groups the first of which distinguished by the vestiture of the basal end of interstriae 7 consisting of a dark tuft of suberect setae. In the second group those were substituted for a pale patch of more or less depressed scales (it

should be noticed that also in the first group there is a similar pale patch which is however situated on interstriae 6). As will appear from the description *pallida* will fall into the second group.

Another character of the second group advanced by Roudier, viz. the anterior junction of certain elytral striae, is less applicable in species which, like the present, have small strial punctures where the interstriae may become narrower basad but are still discernible up to the very margin.



Figs. 1-6. — Penes of **Echinodera.** 1, 2. **E. compacta** Wollaston, Gran Canaria. 3, 6, **E. pallida** n. sp., Selvagem Grande. 4, 5. **E. picta** Wollaston, Fuerteventura. — 1, 4, 6. Ventral view. 2, 3, 5. Lateral view.

The second group contains three Canarian species: *orbiculata* Wollaston, *compacta* Wollaston, and *picta* Wollaston. From the two first-mentioned *pallida* is distinguished by rugose elytral interstriae with shorter, paler and less erect setae, from the second also by considerably smaller strial punctures and by slightly concave sides of the apical portion of the penis (cfr. Figs. 1 and 2). Compared to the third species, finally, *pallida* is averagely larger (body-length of *picta* 2.35-2.90 mm) with nar-

rower setae, less strongly pointed apex of the penis (cfr. Figs. 4 and 5), and the pale ground colour of its vestiture by which *pallida* is distinguished from all the Canarian *Echinodera.*

All facts known about the biology and the geographic distribution of *pallida* appear from the type-list.

As far as can be concluded the *Echinodera* species generally develop in twigs and branches of various ligneous plants (laurels have been particularly mentioned) and are therefore basically forest-insects. The presence of the genus in the Salvages suggests that these islands were once covered by forests and that the species found one or more new hosts after deforestation.

It may be of some interest to examine the occurrence of its probably closest relative which is *picta* living in islands where the native forests once present are now completely extinct: Fuerteventura and Lanzarote. The original find consisted of a single specimen captured under a stone. My own material was obtained by sifting dead leaves and twigs under *Eriobotrya japonica* and *Ficus carica* indicating that these trees were accepted as hosts, not unexpectedly so because, in my experience, they are excellent substitutes of use to several other Macaronesian beetles with development in wood. One of my Fuerteventura specimens of *picta* was sifted, however, from ground material in open field far from presumptive hosts.

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