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NEW SYNONYMY FOR *DILOTAXIS EBENINA* FROM MARTINIQUE AND NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS FOR *DILOTAXIS* (COLEOPTERA: SCARABAEIDAE: MELOLONTHINAE)

By PATRICIA VAURIE¹

NEW SYNONYMY

For more than a hundred years *Diplotaxis ebenina* Blanchard, 1850 (type from the island of Martinique in the Lesser Antilles), has continued to be recognized as a valid form although no further specimens have been found. Twice I discussed this species, listing it as *Incertae Sedis* (Vaurie, A Revision of the Genus *Diplotaxis*, 1958, pt. 1, p. 389; 1960, pt. 2, p. 413) and expressed doubt as to its status and identity. Not having seen the type, however, I included *ebenina* in the key to the species of *Diplotaxis* (1960, p. 180). Now I have examined the type, which Dr. A. Villiers found for me in the Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle in Paris, and it is the well-known, readily identified, abundant species, *liberta* Germar, 1824, from the eastern and southern United States [NEW SYNONYMY].

It seems questionable, however, to include Martinique in the range of *liberta*. First, the type, a female, bears the label, "M[ont] Pelée, Martinique," a 4400 foot high volcano that erupted violently in 1902. The specimen might be more credible if it had been taken at least on the coast instead of in the mountains, presuming the beetle was actually captured on the island and not mislabeled. Secondly, the genus occurs definitely elsewhere in the West Indies in Jamaica only, where the endemic *D. jamaicensis* Cazier is common and comes readily to light at night. A single specimen of another species from the United States, *atlantis* Fall, 1909, is in the Zoologisches Museum in Berlin, and it bears the label "Gouadeloupe" which probably refers to the island of Guadeloupe north of Martinique. Thirdly, although Guadeloupe has been well collected by the French, and although my husband and I searched for "*ebenina*" in Martinique in the summer of 1960, no additional specimens of either *liberta* or *atlantis* are yet known from these islands. I believe that the Lesser Antilles should be dropped from the range of these species.

¹ American Museum of Natural History, New York, N. Y.

NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORDS

Since the publication of the new records in "A Revision of the Genus *Diplotaxis*" (Vaurie, 1960, pp. 176-177), the following new localities or specimens of unusual interest have been examined in material from various collections.

Diplotaxis amecameca Vaurie. The type and four paratypes come from Amecameca in the state of Mexico at about 8000 feet. In the collection of Henry Howden is a female collected by Evans on March 26, 1959, at 5500 feet, in Cuernavaca in the adjacent state of Morelos.

Diplotaxis arizonica Schaeffer. A specimen taken May, 1961, by Henry Howden in Yecora, Sonora, adds a second state (after Chihuahua) to the Mexican localities. The record of this species from Texas (Vaurie, *loc. cit.*) is an error; in the United States this species is known from Arizona only.

Diplotaxis fissilabris Fall. A second specimen from the state of Sonora, Mexico, has been examined; it is from Hermosillo, collected by Henry Howden on May 25, 1961. This is farther south than the other locality, Pitiquito.

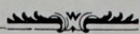
Diplotaxis insignis LeConte. Recorded previously from Nevada, Idaho, Utah, and California, this species is now found to occur in southern Oregon, according to a specimen in Oregon State University collected by Hasbrouck in May of 1957, at 16 miles southeast of Silver Lake.

Diplotaxis mascula Vaurie. Two additional males from Todos Santos, Baja California, collected September, 1959, by Radford and Werner, and in the Canadian National Collection, Ottawa, bring the total number of specimens of this species to six, all from the Cape region.

Diplotaxis obregon Vaurie. A second specimen of this species, described from a single male from Obregon, Sonora, Mexico, has been examined. It is a large female (the type is 9 mm. long), also from Obregon, collected August 5, 1960, by W. W. Gibson, and in the collection of Henry Howden.

Diplotaxis residua Fall. This rather rare, short winged species, not known previously to occur outside of Idaho, does apparently cross the border into eastern Oregon, according to a male specimen from the collection of Oregon State University, collected at Harper, Malheur County, March 30, 1953.

Diplotaxis sierrae Fall. Although known from over 200 examples from California and western Nevada, this species was not recorded until now from Oregon where its presence is confirmed by a series of 35 males and six females in Oregon State University from two localities in Deschutes County in the central part of the state, 13 miles southeast of Sisters, June, 1921, and from 7 miles north of Tumalo—all taken at light by D. R. Smith.



LITERATURE NOTICE

The latest article in the recent interesting series on lycid mimics concerns "Lycid predation by mimetic adult Cermabycidae," by Eisner, Kafatos, Linsley, in *Evolution* 16:316-324, illus., 1962.



Vaurie, Patricia. 1962. "New Synonymy for *Diplotaxis ebenina* from Martinique and New Distribution Records for *Diplotaxis* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Melolonthinae)." *The Coleopterists' Bulletin* 16(4), 97–98.

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