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Description of a new species of *Thaumaglossa* Redtenbacher, 1867 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea (West Africa).

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Abstract: *Thaumaglossa escalerae* sp. nov. from the Republic of Equatorial Guinea is described, illustrated and compared with the similar looking species known from Republic of Equatorial Guinea (W Africa).

Key words: Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Thaumaglossa*, taxonomy, new species, Republic of Equatorial Guinea, Africa.

Resumen: Descripción de una nueva especie de *Thaumaglossa* Redtenbacher, 1867 (Coleoptera: Dermestidae) de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial (África Occ.). Se describe e ilustra una nueva especie de *Thaumaglossa* Redtenbacher, 1867, y se compara con las especies similares de la República de Guinea Ecuatorial (África Occ.).

Palabras clave: Coleoptera, Dermestidae, *Thaumaglossa*, taxonomía, especie nueva, República de Guinea Ecuatorial, África.

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Introduction

The dermestid genus *Thaumaglossa* Redtenbacher, 1867 currently contains 51 different species worldwide (Háva 2003, 2012); so far only three species of this genus have been recorded from Equatorial Guinea: *Th. conradti* Pic, 1927, *Th. rufiventris* Pic, 1927 and *Th. demeyeri* Háva, 2009 (Háva 2003, Háva 2009). Now a fourth species is detected in this country and resulting new to Science it is hereby described, illustrated and compared.

Equatorial Guinea was a Spanish colony, known as Spanish Guinea (became independent in August 1968) and actually consists of a small mainland (bordering Cameroon to the north, east and south to Gabon and the Atlantic Ocean to the west) and several islands. The main one is Bioko Island (formerly Fernando Poo) with its capital Malabo (formerly Santa Isabel). Bioko has an area of 2017 km² and its geographical coordinates are 3.30°N, 8.42°E.

Material and methods

The size of beetles or of their body parts can be useful in species identification and thus, the following measurements were made:

total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of pronotum to apex of elytra.

pronotal length (PL) - maximum length from anterior margin to posterior margin of the pronotum.

pronotal width (PW) - maximum linear distance between lateral margins.
 elytral length (EL) - linear distance from shoulder to apex of elytron.
 elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance.

Results

Thaumaglossa escalerae sp. nov.

(Figs. 1-3)

Type material. Holotype ♂ labelled: "Fernando Poo, Sta. Isabel, IX-1919 M. Escalera". The holotype specimen is deposited in the private collection of Prof. Dr. Paulino Plata Negrache and later will be deposited in the Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid (C.S.I.C.). The specimen now is additionally provided with a red label "Holotypus, *Thaumaglossa escalerae* n. sp., ♂, det. A. Herrmann & J. Háva 2012".

Description.

Male. Body dark brown to black on dorsal and ventral surfaces; small, shining and slightly short oval (Fig. 1). Body measurements (in mm): TL 2.4, PL 0.6, PW 1.8, EL 1.9, EW 1.9. Head sparsely and fine but distinct punctate, with some long, yellowish-white setation. Palpi dark brown. Eyes large without visible microsetae at 80x magnification. Ocellus on front present. Antennae entirely reddish brown, with 11 antennomeres, the first antennomere of the shaft slightly darker, the club with brown setation, the shaft with a few single yellow setae, the terminal antennomere extremely enlarged (Fig. 2). Pronotum on the disc punctate like head, the density of the punctation increases towards the lateral margins; sparsely covered with quite strong and long bright setae, somewhat erected, their density also increases towards the lateral margins; pronotal lateral margins visible from above, not dentate; posterior angles acute rectangular. Scutellum small, more or less triangular, shiny, without any visible pubescence. Elytrae black to dark brown, shiny, humera with a flattened indistinct bump; densely and quite strong punctate, entirely with brown suberected strong setation sparsely covered, a few brighter hairs intermixed, without any spots or fasciae. Epipleura short, brown, with some brighter hairs. Legs and tarsae entirely light brown, with a few light brown hairs. Punctation, colour and pubescence of the mesoventrum similar to the elytrae. Abdominal ventrites brown, with recumbent, light brown pubescence. Genitalia as shown in Fig. 3.

Female. Unknown.

Diagnosis. The new species differs from all the other species of the genus *Thaumaglossa* by the combination of the small body size, the form of the antennae, the bright lateral pubescence on the pronotum and the missing elytral fasciae.

Etymology. The new species is named after M. Escalera, the collector of the holotype and a renowned entomologist (1867-1949). In 1898 he was in Syria and Turkey, in 1899 in Turkey, Syria, Iran and Iraq. From 1905 to 1915 he developed his work in Morocco, from 1919 to 1923 in Fernando Poo and the Canary Islands, and then he dedicated himself to organize expeditions throughout Spain and Morocco. In his last years he was named partner of the Museum of Natural Sciences in Madrid.

Acknowledgements

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Figs. 1-3.- *Thaumaglossa escalerae*, new species.

1.- habitus, dorsal aspect.

2.- antenna.

3.- genitalia.

