

Two *Canariella* species (Gastropoda: Helicoidea: Hygromiidae) endemic to the Northwest Tenerife (Canary Islands)

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Abstract

Canariella giustii **sp. nov.** is described and morphological data for *C. pontelirae* Hutterer, 1994, previously believed extinct, are added. *C. giustii* differs from all the other known species of the genus mainly by the broadened penis, with a lateral-proximal epiphallar opening and the extension of the two epiphallar folds in the penial cavity without merging in a penial papilla. Both species are endemic to Teno massif (Tenerife Island).

The range of the living population of *C. pontelirae* is very small, only of about 0.4 km², and tourism has significant effect over the entire area. Thus, *C. pontelirae* is seriously threatened. It is recommended that the species be classified as "Critically Endangered", that it be included in the Habitats Directive Annex II and IV of the European Union, and to increase the legal protection level of its relic distribution area to the category of "Site of Scientific Interest". Nine other endemic land snail species also live at that site (among them, *C. giustii*) and they would benefit from this new level of protection.

Key words: Gastropoda, Hygromiidae, *Canariella*, taxonomy, Tenerife Island, endangered species

Introduction

The Canary Islands, like other oceanic archipelagos, are a natural laboratory for studies directed towards understanding the origins of diversity (Emerson 2002; Emerson & Kolm 2005), mainly utilising species-rich groups of arthropod and terrestrial gastropod. The Canarian land snails are also of interest for Quaternary geochronological studies because of the excellent conservation of the shells, which are uncontaminated and therefore particularly useful for amino-acid racemization/epimerization dating (Ortiz *et al.* 2006).

Many groups of plants and invertebrates show high levels of endemism, having diversified throughout the Canary Islands to produce a series of species-rich genera, such