

A new dung beetle genus with two new species from Chile (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae)

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Abstract

A new scarabaeine genus (*Tesserodoniella* n. gen.) with two new species (*T. elguetai* n. sp. and *T. meridionalis* n. sp.) from Chile are described, and provisionally included in the tribe Canthonini. Species in the new genus are most similar to species from two Australian genera and appear not to be closely related to other New World canthonines.

Key words: dung beetle, new genus, new species, Gondwanaland, Scarabaeinae, Chile, *Tesserodon*, *Aptenocanthon*

Resumen

Se describe el género *Tesserodoniella* n. gen., con dos especies nuevas (*T. elguetai* n. sp. y *T. meridionalis* n. sp.) de Chile, ubicado provisionalmente en la tribu Canthonini. El nuevo género presenta gran similitud con dos géneros australianos, no presentando aparentemente relaciones con el resto de la fauna americana de la tribu.

Introduction

Until now, only three species of scarabaeine dung beetles were reported in Chile, none of which are endemic to that country. In the tribe Canthonini, only *Megathopa villosa* Eschscholtz and *Scybalophagus rugosus* (Blanchard) were known from Chile. *Megathopa villosa* occurs in Chile from Coquimbo (Region IV) to Malleco Province (Region IX), which corresponds to the “precordilleran floor” of the Andes, and extends into similar habitats in Argentina in Río Negro and Chubut provinces (Halffter & Martínez 1966; Ovalle & Solervicens 1980; M. Elgueta, *in litt.*). *Scybalophagus rugosus* is restricted in