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A new species of *Tarphius* Erichson, 1845 (Coleoptera: Zopheridae) from North Africa and notes on an Iberian species

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Abstract

A new species of *Tarphius* Erichson, 1845 (Coleoptera: Zopheridae, Solier, 1834) is described from Morocco. *Tarphius isabelae* n. sp. is the fifth *Tarphius* species recorded in North Africa. In addition, we present some information on the Iberian species, *Tarphius kiesenwetteri* Heyden, 1870.

Key words: *Tarphius*, taxonomy, new species, Morocco, additional records, Iberian Peninsula

Introduction

The genus *Tarphius* Erichson, 1845 is represented in the Palaearctic region by 69 species (Franz 1967; Dajoz 1977; Borges *et al.* 2008, 2010; Ślipiński & Schuh 2008; Arechavaleta *et al.* 2010; Amorim *et al.* 2012; Machado 2012). Additionally, four species are known from other regions, including two from South America (Franz 1967) and two from the Himalayas (Ślipiński 1985) (see Appendix 1). The only comprehensive catalogue, identification key and descriptions of *Tarphius* species for the Palaearctic region was provided by Dajoz (1977), which does not include several (~20) new species that have since been described (see Appendix 1). The vast majority of the Palaearctic species (90%) are confined to the Macaronesian archipelagos of the Azores (8 spp.) (Borges *et al.* 2010), Madeira (23 spp.) (Borges *et al.* 2008; Machado 2012) and Canaries (31 species) (Arechavaleta *et al.* 2010; Machado 2012). The remaining Palaearctic species occur in North Africa (4 spp.), Italy (1 sp.) and the Iberian Peninsula (2 spp.) (Ślipiński & Schuh 2008). The genus has historically been divided into four subgenera (Franz 1967; Dajoz 1977): *Tarphius s.str.*, *Glabrotarphius* Franz, 1967, *Caudatotarphius* Franz, 1967 and *Atlantotarphius* Franz, 1967. However, this division has not always been followed in subsequent works (e.g. Ślipiński & Schuh 2008).

In the last twenty years, only seven new species of *Tarphius* have been described (see Appendix 1), suggesting that few novelties remain to be discovered. In spite of this, two species were recently described from Deserta Grande (Madeira archipelago) and Fuerteventura (Canary Islands) (Machado 2012), and additional cryptic species are currently being described from the Azores (Borges *et al. in prep.*; see also Amorim *et al.* 2012). In addition, a large effort to collect *Tarphius* in several locations throughout mainland Portugal, Morocco, Azores and Madeira archipelagos resulted in the discovery and description of a new species from North Africa (*Tarphius isabelae* n.sp.) and a new locality in continental Portugal for an Iberian species (*Tarphius kiesenwetteri* Heyden, 1870).

The purposes of this work are to: i) describe a new species of *Tarphius* from North Africa; and ii) provide additional distributional and natural history information on the Iberian species, *T. kiesenwetteri*.