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*Phobetron hipparchia* (Cramer, 1777)

foto: J. Movia Gonzalez

# *Eudinopus dytiscoides* (Schreibers, 1802) confirmed for Paraguay (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae: Scarabaeinae: Canthonini)

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**Abstract:** The presence of *Eudinopus dytiscoides* from Paraguay is confirmed. The species was previously secured with voucher specimens only from Argentina and Bolivia.

**Resumen:** Se confirma la presencia de *Eudinopus dytiscoides* en Paraguay. La especie era previamente comprobada solo de Argentina y Bolivia.

**Zusammenfassung:** Das Vorkommen von *Eudinopus dytiscoides* in Paraguay wird bestätigt. Die Art war bisher nur aus Argentinien und Bolivien belegt.

**Key words:** Paraguay, Scarabaeidae, Canthonini, *Eudinopus dytiscoides*, distribution.

## Introduction

The distribution of the monotypic genus *Eudinopus* is limited to the southern part of the Neotropics and was previously evidenced by voucher specimens only from Argentina and Bolivia (Vidaurre et al. 2009). The occurrence in Argentina is known from the provinces of Catamarca, La Pampa, San Juan, San Luis, La Rioja, Buenos Aires, Mendoza, Neuquén, Río Negro, Salta and Córdoba (Martínez 1959 and 1989; Halffter & Martínez 1966; Monteresino et al. 1996; Smith 2007). Vidaurre et al. (2009) reported the species from the Department of Santa Cruz in Bolivia.

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Both the citation of Schreiber (1802) for Brazil and the communication of Burmeister (1840) "*Habitat in desertis Americae australis interioris, et in Paraguay inventa est.*" for Paraguay had been rejected by Martínez (1959) as erroneous. The announcement of the occurrence in Bolivia (Vidaurre et al. 2009) in the immediate vicinity of the border with Paraguay suggested that the species could also occur here.

### Recent diurnal observations of *Eudinopus dytiscoides*

During a short stay (1 to 6 June 2019) in the western Chaco of Paraguay in the Department of Alto Paraguay (20° 09' S and 61° 46' W) near the border with Bolivia, several specimens of *Eudinopus dytiscoides* could now be observed. The nights were cool with temperatures of 9° - 14° C before sunrise, the daytime temperatures climbed above 30° C. The first observed specimen (Fig.1) was busy rolling a ball of soft goat's dung through the sparsely vegetation, but felt disturbed by my approach and tried to fly away. The dungball was placed on the trail to observe any further activities. At an inspection about 20 minutes later the dung had disappeared. Freshly excavated sand about 2 meters away indicated the spot where the dung was buried. A pair of *E. dytiscoides* could be excavated from a vertical tunnel at a depth of about 20 cm. On the following days, in the early morning hours, human dung was laid out on clearly visible spots to detect possible activities of *E. dytiscoides*. Both fresh dung and dung from the previous day was accepted. Active animals could only be observed between about 12° and 14°.

A voucher specimen will eventually be deposited in the collection of the *Museo Nacional de Historia Natural del Paraguay*.



Figs: 1-2: *Eudinopus dytiscoides*





Fig. 3: Open Cerrado-like vegetation in the observation site of *E. dytiscoides*

### Discussion

Because of the short distance to the Bolivian locality (19° 54' S and 62° 12' W) of less than 60 km the presence of *E. dytiscoides* on the Paraguayan side could be expected.

The fact that Burmeister saw specimens of this area in 1840 is highly unlikely. At this time, this territory was still largely unexplored and even today with difficulty reachable on more than 400 km of earth roads. This statement seemed doubtful to Martinez, which is why he dismissed it as erroneous. To which specimens Burmeister referred to or whether there was a confusion remains unknown.

### Acknowledgements

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**FRONT COVER PHOTO:** *Phobetron hipparchia* (Cramer, 1777) (Limacodidae), Paraguay, Dep. Cordillera, Caacupé, Cabañas, 10. III. 2018