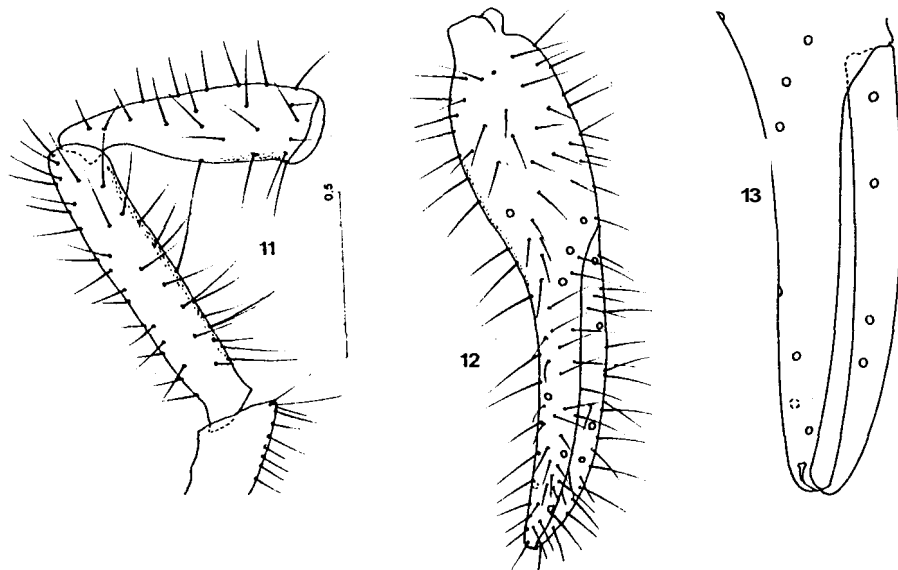


longueur de la pince avec pédicule 1,54-1,59; patte ambulatoire I: basifémur 0,47/0,10-0,12, téléfémur 0,28-0,29/0,08-0,10, tibia 0,42-0,45/0,07-0,08, basitarse 0,23-0,24/0,06, télotarse 0,29-0,33/0,05; patte ambulatoire IV: fémur 0,73-0,76/0,17-0,19, tibia 0,64-0,65/0,09-0,11, basitarse 0,28-0,30/0,07-0,08, télotarse 0,35-0,37/0,06-0,07

Pseudoblothrus vulcanus n.sp. se distingue de l'espèce *oromii* n.sp. par des pattes-mâchoires plus élancées, une taille légèrement plus grande, des yeux un peu plus développés, la projection antérolatérale de la hanche I est plus épaisse et pourvue de spicules. Outre cela une différence sensible exister dans le



Figs. 11 à 13: *Pseudoblothrus vulcanus* n.sp.; pédipalpe gauche

développement des tarsi des pattes ambulatoires; chez *vulcanus* les télotarses I et IV sont relativement plus longs que les basitarses (1,26-1,37 resp. 1,16-1,31) que chez *oromii* (1,50-1,64 resp. 1,36-1,42). Cette différence pourrait indiquer une séparation génétique bien établie de ces deux espèces, qui sont issues, à une époque assez récente, d'une souche ancestrale commune. Les îles de l'archipel des Açores sont toutes d'origine volcanique, Sao Jorge et Terceira font partie du groupe central, qui s'est probablement formé vers la fin du Miocène et qui a émergé durant le Pliocène.

Par la présence d'une glande sternale *oronii* (ci probablement aussi *vulcanus*) se rapproche de *P. strinatii* du Jura suisse, jusqu'ici seule espèce connue avec une telle glande abdominale. Ces espèces sont bien distinctes par d'autres caractères morphologiques et morphométriques.

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Arthropods of recent lava flows on Lanzarote

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ABSTRACT: Trapping and searching was used to investigate the arthropods of historic lava and adjacent islets on Lanzarote. Recent lava away from the coast is poor in numbers of individuals and of species. Very close to the coast there are abundant Collembola and also a variety of larger arthropods, especially flightless Melyridae (Coleoptera), flightless Gryllidae (Orthoptera) and Isopoda (Crustacea). Islets of older rocks have richer communities in which Diptera and Coleoptera are abundant but Collembola relatively scarce.

Key words: Arthropods, lava flow, cave, aeolian ecosystem, Tinianfaya, Lanzarote, Canary Islands.

RESUMEN: Se utilizó un muestreo por trapeo y búsqueda para investigar la fauna de artrópodos de las lavas históricas y los islotes adyacentes en Lanzarote. La lava reciente alejada de la costa es pobre tanto en número de individuos como de especies; sin embargo muy cerca de la costa hay abundantes colémbolos y una amplia variedad de artrópodos de mayor tamaño, especialmente Isopoda (Crustacea) y ciertos insectos no voladores como Melyridae (Coleoptera) y Gryllidae (Orthoptera). Los islotes de rocas más antiguas sustentan comunidades más ricas en las que abundan coleópteros y dípteros, mientras que los colémbolos son relativamente escasos.

Palabras clave: Artrópodos, colada de lava, cueva, ecosistemas cólicos, Timanfaya, Lanzarote, Islas Canarias.

INTRODUCTION

The Parque Nacional de Timanfaya, on Lanzarote, Canary Islands, Spain, was established primarily because of the spectacular volcanic phenomena that it displays. However, the lava flows and cinder cones of the park also have considerable biological interest. KUNKEL (1981) has discussed the plant life of the park, and we report here on some preliminary investigations, in 1984 and 1985, of the arthropods living in the park and on similar areas nearby. We also include data on arthropods found during a brief investigation of a lava tube in historic lava outside the park.

As Fig. 1 shows, the eruptions between 1730 and 1736 (and smaller ones in 1824) covered almost exactly a quarter of the island of Lanzarote (and almost the whole of the area that is now park) with lava and pyroclastic materials. Most of the recent lava is of the chaotic and jagged "aa" type, but there are some areas of the smoother "pahoehoe" lava (see MacDONALD, 1953). The volcanic deposits presumably

sterilized the ground completely, but some old high volcanoes and some relatively flat areas were surrounded by new lava or pyroclasts without being completely covered. These are perhaps best referred to as "kipukas", following the Hawaiian terminology (MUELLER-DOMBOIS et al., 1981), but on Lanzarote they are known as "islotos" of older rock circling from the surrounding recent "mar de lava".

Although recent lava flows lack any type of soil and are inhospitable for higher plants, colonization by microorganisms, lichens, and to some extent mosses seems to be possible almost at once, if adequate moisture is available (HENRIKSSON & HODGEHS, 1978). On Lanzarote succession is doubtless helped by the accumulation of dust from the Sahara, which probably arrives at a rate of several centimetres per 1000 years (SCHÖTZ et al., 1981). The resultant dust deposits hold moisture, and are colonized by mosses and occasionally by higher plants. Indeed, KUNKEL (1981) points out that almost 400 plant species occur in the park. Apart from lichens, however, these plants are extremely scattered, and contribute little to the productivity of the area. Lichens must achieve substantial primary production where they are abundant, but populations of herbivores in zones with lichens seem to be very sparse.

Because primary production is so low on recent lava flows, and in dry climates succession is slow, these areas can for some time be reasonably included in the category of "aeolian ecosystems" (EDWARDS, 1987), which are those where animal life depends mainly on the input of windborne organic material (which we refer to as "biological fallout" or "manna"). The resident animals are almost all carnivores or scavengers, and their food consists mainly of windborne pollen, spores, seeds, plant fragments, nutrient particles derived from the sea and more productive land, and a wide variety of aerially dispersing arthropods (review in EDWARDS, 1987).

Colonization of the historic lava flows may have taken place partly from populations that survived on the islotos (cf. KUNKEL, 1981, p. 16), but was probably mainly from the peripheral areas of older rocks. Some coastal animals may have arrived by sea, and colonization by air would be possible for certain spiders and mites. However, most members of the resident inland community are incapable of flight and evidently colonized the recent lava by walking on to it after it had cooled, or in some cases perhaps by travelling underground through the "MSS", from the French term "milieu souterrain superficiel" (JUBERTINE, 1983), which in English can be rendered as the "mesocavernous shallow stratum" (cf. HOWARTH, 1983; OROMI, MEDINA & MARTIN, in press). It has been shown that the fauna characteristic of the MSS frequently occurs also in lava tubes (HOWARTH, 1983; OROMI, MEDINA & TEJEDOR, 1986). It is worth noting that the most practicable way of demonstrating the existence of this underground movement would be by sampling in lava tubes situated in extensive lava flows. At the time of this study it was thought that no substantial lava tubes were present in the park.

The work on Lanzarote discussed in this paper was carried out in two sections. In 1984 MJA and NPA collected samples at three sites on the historic lava flows, with the aim of comparing the animal communities on these sites with those on historic flows on Tenerife (ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE, 1987). The results showed that the composition of the fauna varied with the distance from the sea and that in Tenerife there were striking differences in the faunas of kipukas and the surrounding recent lava. The work that we carried out together on Lanzarote in 1985 was planned taking these results into account. We obtained series of samples at different distances from the coast and sampled two kipukas (see sampling sites).

In order to obtain an idea of the kind of subterranean fauna that could occur in the Timanfaya lava, we undertook sampling in 1985 in the Cueva de los Naturalistas, probably the most appropriate place for such a study despite its distance from the park (see Fig. 1).

COLLECTING METHODS

We used a trapping period of four days and four different collecting methods. As we have discussed elsewhere (ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE, 1987) each of these methods tends to be biased toward the capture of different groups of invertebrates. The use of all four methods at each site, however, probably results in the capture of representatives of most invertebrate taxa that play an important role in the local community. Exceptions to our standard sampling routine are mentioned in the accounts of the sites concerned.

1. **Pitfall traps.** These traps were screw-top straight-sided plastic jars of 4.2 cm diameter and 8 cm depth, and contained 50 ml of a 5% solution of formalin (40% formaldehyde) in water with a little detergent. The traps were shaded from direct sunlight. Six were used at each site in both years.

2. **Bottle traps with Turquin's liquid.** These were 250 ml disposable glass beer bottles with 50 ml of Turquin's liquid (TURQUIN, 1973), designed to be attractive to arthropods. The modified form that we use consists of 10 g chloral hydrate, 5 ml formalin, 5 ml glacial acetic acid, 1 ml liquid detergent and water to 1 litre. Three of these traps were used at each site.

3. **Bottle traps with cheese.** The same type of bottle was used as with Turquin's liquid, but the bait was about 3 g of "Danish Blue" cheese. Three of these traps were used at each site.

4. **Visual searches.** These were carried out in the vicinity of the traps in daylight and normally lasted for a total of 1.5 h at each site; this time was always split between two or more people.

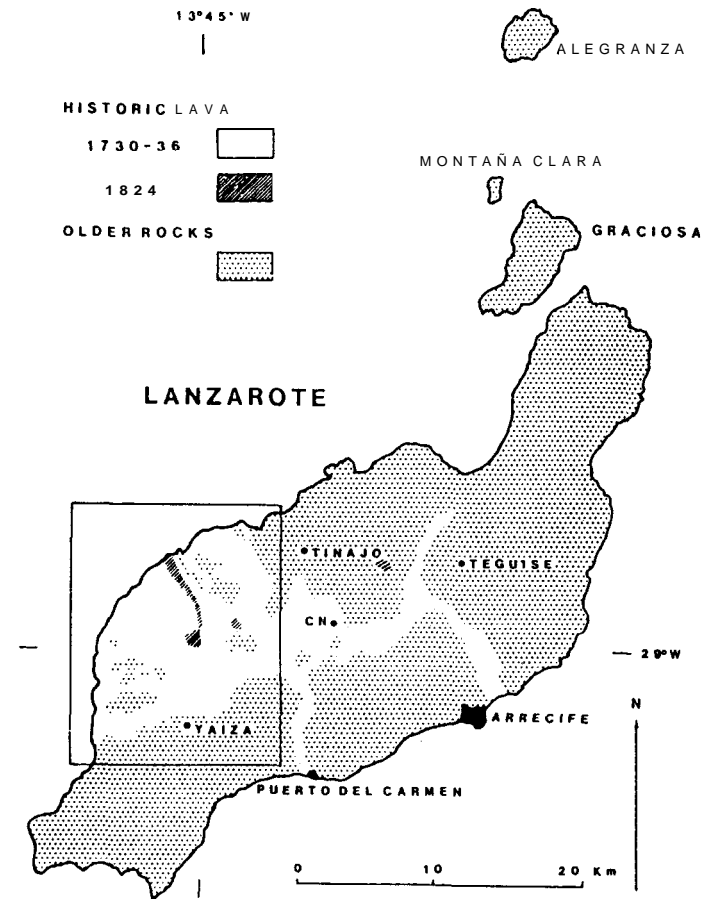


Figure 1. Map of Lanzarote showing the approximate extent of the historic lava flows (Based on Atlas Básico de Canarias). CN: Cueva de los Naturalistas.

SAMPLING SITES

Sampling in 1984 was at three sites (Lago de Lava, Malpals interior and Malpals costero). In 1985 we made systematic collections at eight new sites (including one cave) and put out a few iraps at a ninth (Pleitito); we also returned to Lago de Lava to put traps in deep cracks. The 1984 sites are mentioned briefly since they are fully described in ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE (1987). Some English names for sites that were used in that paper or correspond with specialists are given in parenthesis.

It is possible that the lava at one or more of our sampling sites dates from the 1824 eruption rather than the 1730-36 eruptions (compare Figs. 1 and 2); unfortunately we could not determine the precise boundaries of the 1824 flows (see HAUSEN, 1959) and have therefore not indicated them on this large-scale map (Fig. 2).

Lago de lava (Lava lake) 1984 and 1985

UTM ref. FT232088, 350 m a.s.l. More than 7 km from the sea. A shallow basin of historic lava of relatively smooth "pahoehoe" type, but with crevasse-like cracks. Lichen coverage about 10%. In 1985 the purpose of the sampling here was mainly to see whether the composition of the fauna in the cracks was different from that found on the surface the previous year. We did not use pitfall traps or make a visual search, but used strings to lower six bottles with Turquin's liquid and six with cheese into the cracks (max. depth 5.3 m).

Malpals interior (Inland malpals) 1984

UTM ref. FT214100, 290 m a.s.l. On historic "aa" lava nearly 4 km from the sea; with lichen coverage averaging around 50%.

Malpals costero (Coastal Malpals) 1984

UTM ref. FT188158 (incorrectly quoted in ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE, 1987 as FT190150), ca. 18 m a.s.l. About 200 m from the sea; lava type similar to that at Malpals interior, but with hardly any lichens.

Orilla (Seaside) 1985

UTM ref. FT189152, 95 m a.s.l. All the traps were less than 20 m from the sea and within the zone affected by salt spray. The lava reaching the sea here is of rough "aa" type, with no lichens and hardly any moss.

Posadero (Gullrock) 1985

UTM ref. FT190150, ca. 18 m a.s.l. About 200 m inland and about 500 m northeast of Malpals costero. No lichens or mosses seen. With an onshore wind the tang of salt in the air was very noticeable.

Barranco 1985

UTM ref. FT194150, ca. 20 m a.s.l. About 500 m inland. A low-lying area of very dissected sharp "aa" lava. A few tiny patches of moss and some small lichens in deep places. The only vascular plant that we saw was a single large bush of *Launaea arborescens* (Batt.) Murb.

Esquina (Corner) 1985

UTM ref. FT216120, 180 m a.s.l. This site is 4 km inland on the park boundary southeast of Caldera Bermeja. It is a very dissected area of lava, but with no deep cracks. Lichens, mainly *Stereocaulon vesuvianum* Pers., are abundant on the north sides of the rocks, with a total cover of about 15%. There is a little moss and along the side of the nearby track are a few *Launaea arborescens*.

Islote Halcones 1985

UTM ref. FT153090, 108 m a.s.l. A remote kipuka in the southwest of the national park. It is a boomerang-shaped ridge of old volcanic rock, about 0.7 km long, around which the 1730-36 lava flowed, enclosing it on all sides and isolating it thoroughly from other vegetated areas. We doubled our trapping sample here, putting one set of traps on the east and one on the west of the ridge; visual searching was increased from the normal 15 min to 25 min. There are only scattered plants on the ridge, giving about 1-5% cover, but on some parts of the sides *Euphorbia balsamifera* Aiton is well established; a variety of other plants have been recorded by KUNDEL

(1981). Lizards are fairly abundant and we saw evidence of rabbits; a pair of ravens (*Corvus corax*) apparently nest on the islete.

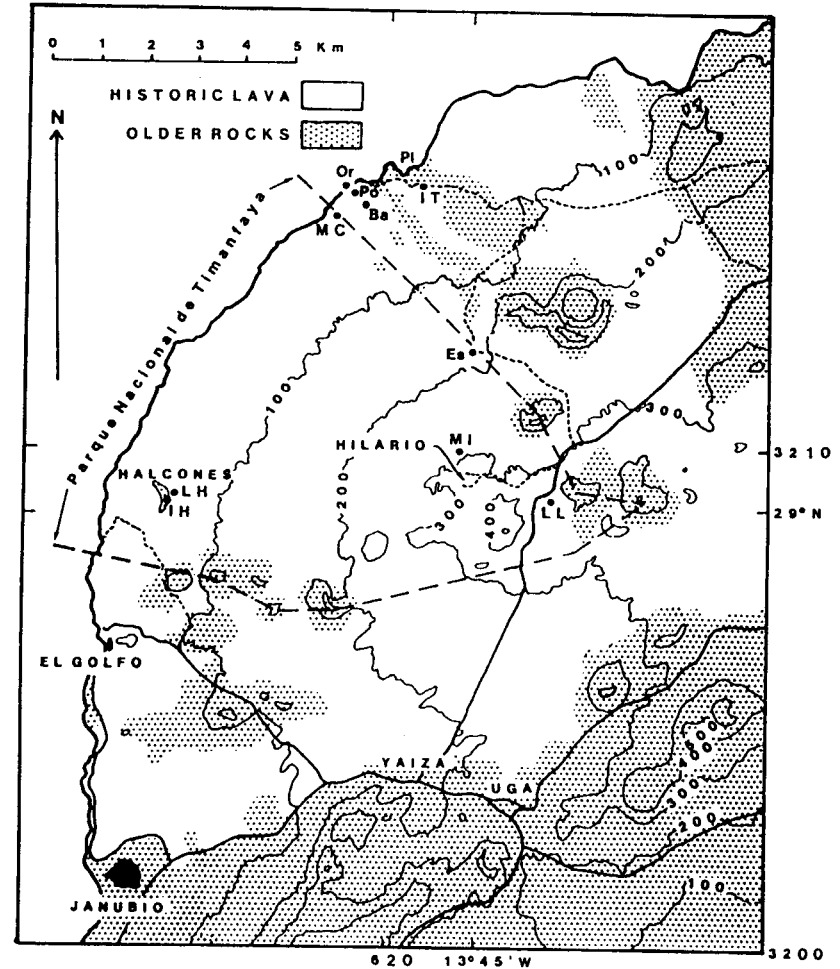


Figure 2. Map of the Parque Nacional de Timanfaya and surrounding area. Contours are at 100 m intervals. For clarity, only principal roads and selected tracks are shown. Stippling indicates approximately the areas that were not covered by new volcanic deposits during the historic eruptions. From various sources. Lava flows of 1824 are not shown because their boundaries are not established.

Abbreviations: LL: Lago de Lava; MI: Malpals interior; MC: Malpals costero; Or: Orilla; Po: Posadero; Ba: Barranco; Es: Esquina; IH: Islote Halcones; LH: Islote Halcones; IT: Islote Tabaiabas; PI: Pleitito; CN: Cueva de los Naturalistas.

Lava Halcones 1985

UTM ref. FT154090, 66 m a.s.l. This site is about 100 m from the northeast edge of Islote Halcones, in the historic lava flow. It is very rough "aa" lava, with some deep cracks. Lichen (*Stereocaulon vesuvianum*) is patchy but abundant and covers up to 50% of the rock surface in a few small areas. There are some small accumulations of dust, in which moss grows. We put out a double set of traps here, to provide a fair comparison with Islote Halcones, but two bottle traps with Turquin's liquid were lost down deep cracks; visual searching was for 2.5 hr.

Islote Tabaibas 1985

UTM ref. FT204154, ca. 30 m a.s.l. This site is about 400 m inland and in a large, irregular and relatively flat islote just north of the main expanse of recent lava in the national park; it extends from Caldera Blanca, 4 km inland, down to the shore. The site includes a low rocky ridge and a bowl-shaped area with loose rocks and accumulated dust. There is about 40% cover of shrubs, dominated by *Euphorbia* spp., but there are virtually no herbs. Rabbit droppings are numerous. Sampling was carried out here in order to provide a comparison with the transect on the historic lava nearby; unfortunately we did not have time to do visual searching at this site.

Cueva de los Naturalistas 1985

UTM ref. FT3010, 325 m a.s.l. A volcanic tube situated in the Malpaís de Tizalaya, between Masdache and Lo Vegueta (Fig. 1). The lava was formed during the eruption of 1730-36. The lava is of typical pahoehoe type, now covered by a dense growth of lichens mainly *Stereocaulon* sp., *Parmellia* sp. and *Xanthoria* sp. and by some higher plants typical of rocky habitats such as *Aconium* sp. The cave, with a total length of about 1640 m, has two entrances, both communicating with a large main tube; a narrower secondary blind tube branches off this and is rather more difficult of access (see MARTIN & DIAZ, 1985). It is very near the surface and with frequent small openings which allow the penetration of some light from outside, and the temperature is high (around 23 °C) in comparison with other caves. Our standard set of traps was split between two stations, both in the secondary tube; the first was in twilight and the second further into the cave in a totally dark zone. Only a few minutes searching was done in the cave, at the first station.

Pleito 1985

UTM ref. FT203157, ca. 10 m a.s.l. This site was on a steep slope of old rocks just above the intertidal zone, north-northwest of Islote Tabaibas. We put out a few traps at this site, but there were various problems and we therefore do not present the data systematically. However, a few species found here are mentioned in the taxonomic section.

RESULTS

The general composition of the samples is shown in Table I, mainly at the ordinal level but with some orders divided where this seemed appropriate. A summary of the data for each site is given in Table II. The sites are most readily compared, however, by reference to Figs. 3 and 4, which show the relationship between the number of individuals and the number of species found at each site. In this analysis we have included the samples obtained by searching, since these were important in adding extra species, especially of spiders; we have also included in Lago de Lava the animals caught in extra trapping in cracks in 1985, since these cracks are an important part of the habitat that was not sampled in 1984. Fig. 3A includes all the data, while Fig. 3B shows the picture after elimination of the Collembola; these were extremely numerous at Posadero, Orilla, and Malpaís costero, three sites which form a clear group in Fig. 3A, with high abundance but low species richness. Islote Tabaibas and Islote Halcones, the two sites on older rocks, are linked by their high species richness, and in Fig. 3A also by high abundance; however, this is caused by large numbers of Diptera in Islote Tabaibas but of Collembola in Islote Halcones. The Figs. 3A and 3B data show the low diversity of the recent lava sites and the generally higher abundances closer to the sea (see below). The relatively high number of species at Lago de Lava probably reflects the greater structural complexity of this habitat and perhaps also its closeness to larger areas of older substrates (see Fig. 2); the extra sampling at this site may also have had some effect.

Table I. Total number of individuals and (in parenthesis) species of arthropods obtained in all sampling at each site. For Lago de Lava data for 1984 and 1985 are combined. No searching was done at Islote Tabaibas and only a little at Cueva de los Naturalistas (see text).

Nos. including search	Lago de Lava	Malpaís interior	Malpaís costero	Orilla	Posadero	Barranco	Esquina	Lava Halcones	Islote Halcones	Islote Tabaibas	Cueva de los Naturalistas
Preudorcorpionei	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	1 (1)
Opiliones	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 (1)	-
Araneae	5 (3)	-	-	4 (1)	1 (1)	2 (2)	2 (2)	-	10 (3)	4 (2)	7 (2)
Acari	4 (1+)	1 (1)	-	-	-	2 (1+)	2 (1+)	3 (1+)	24 (1+)	13 (1+)	-
Isopoda	1 (1)	1 (1)	-	30 (3)	-	1 (1)	7 (1)	2 (1)	1 (1)	5 (1)	3 (1)
Diplopoda	-	-	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Collembola	ca.58(4)	ca.31(3)	329(1)	871 (2)	1566 (4)	15 (1)	ca.30(3)	ca.84 (5)	ca.268(5)	24 (1)	13 (1)
Thysanura (Microc.)	-	-	-	2 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thysanura (Zygent.)	15 (1)	4 (1)	59 (1)	-	12 (1)	23 (1)	-	11 (1)	3 (1)	1 (3)	-
Orthoptera	6 (1)	-	9 (1)	33 (1)	3 (1)	15 (1)	-	6 (1)	3 (2)	1 (1)	9 (1)
Procoptera	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	1 (1)	2 (1+)	1 (1)	-	3 (2+)	-
Homoptera	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4 (2)	6 (2)	-
Heieropiera	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Coleoptera	10 (3+)	17 (3)	14 (1)	53 (2)	20 (2)	16 (1)	8 (4)	2 (2)	23 (10)	69 (11+)	-
Lepidoptera	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3 (2+)	9 (4)	-
Diptera (Nematocera)	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1 (2+)	10 (2+)	1 (1)
Diptera (Brach./Cycl.)	7 (4+)	-	2 (2)	-	1 (1)	2 (2)	7 (2+)	8 (2+)	17 (4+)	300 (16+)	71 (1)
Hymenoptera (Formic.)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10 (3)	5 (3)	-
Hymenoptera (other)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2 W	5 (3+)	-

Table II shows the high degree of dominance of Collembola in the recent lava sites close to the sea. At most sites second place in the ordinal rankings is held by Coleoptera or Thysanura, with Diptera, Acari, Orthoptera (Gryllidae) and Isopoda also represented in the top three places. At all but three of the sites more than four-fifths of the animals collected belong to three orders or less.

A quantitative picture of relationships among the sites on a broad taxonomic basis is provided by Table III, which gives a matrix of values of Kendall's "Tau" index of rank correlation. GHENT (1963) drew attention to the usefulness of this index in community comparisons, and its use is discussed by HUITA (1979) and ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE (1987). In the present study the analysis was based on all animals obtained by trapping and searching and was carried out at the ordinal level (with a few exceptions). Taxa absent from both members of a pair of sites were omitted from that comparison. No correction for ties was applied since most ties were at zero abundance in one of a pair of sites; the correction for ties gives inflated similarity values in this situation.

The highest value of the index is that between Malpaís costero and Posadero, two sites only a few hundred metres apart at the same distance from the sea, but

sampled at different seasons and in different years. These two sites are also linked by high index values to Barranco (a site in the same area but 300 m further inland), Lava Halcones (also on recent aa lava fairly close to the sea), and especially to Lago de Lava (on a rather different type of lava and much further inland). Malpais interior also shows moderate similarity with the incubers of this group. The only other high index value links the two older lava sites, Isote Halcones and Isote Tabaibas. The latter site naturally shows very little similarity to the recent lava sites, especially those close to the sea. Orilla, right on the shore, shows strikingly low index values in comparisons with all the other sites, including Posadero only 200 m inland from it. Esquina also stands out by its rather low similarity to most other sites: its closest relationship is to Malpais interior, another site far from the sea where we caught very few animals.

Table II. Summary of data on diversity and dominant taxa for the samples from each site. Sites as in Table I, abbreviated as in Figs. 1 and 2.

SITE	LL	MI	MC	Or	Po	Ba	Es	LH	IH	IT	CN	
No. of orders	12	6	5	7	6	9	8	8	1	1	13	6
No. of individuals (total)	ca.111	ca.55	413	994	1603	77	ca.59	ca.117	ca.371	459	105	
No. of species (total)	23+	10	6	11	10	11+	15+	14+	38+	51+	8	
No. indivs. (minus Coll.)	51	24	84	123	37	62	29	13	103	415	92	
No. of spp. (minus Coll.)	19+	7	5	9	6	10+	12+	9+	31+	50+	7	
Dominance by order:												
First	Collemb.	C d h	C d h	C d len	Collemb.	Thysan.	Collemb.	Collemb.	Collemb.	Dipt.	Dipt.	
Second	Thysan.	Coleop.	Thysan.	Coleop.	Coleop.	Coleop.	Coleop.	Thysan.	Acari	Coleop.	C d len	
Third	Coleop.	Thysan.	Coleop.	Orthop.	Thysan.	Collemb./Orthop.	Isopoda/Diptera	Diptera	Coleop.	C d len	Orthop.	
% domin. of 1st rank	ca.52	ca.56	80	88	98	30	ca.50	ca.72	ca.73	80	68	
% dom. of 1st-3rd rank	ca.75	ca.95	97	96	>99	(70)	(ca.75)	ca.88	ca.86	86	89	

Some further insights can be obtained by looking at the taxonomic composition of the samples in more detail (Table I and the Appendix). It is clear that the community at Orilla is distinct from all the others. It is rich in individuals but not in taxa, and although it shares abundance of Collembola with Posadero and Malpais costero, which are 200 m inland, it differs from them in the absence of lepismatid Thysanura (but the presence of some machilids), the presence of isopods and in the abundance of crickets and two kinds of unusual flightless mealyrid beetles, *Gietella fortunata* and *Infidius petricola*. Barranco, which is a little further inland than Posadero and Malpais costero but still in the zone that is virtually lacking in lichens, differed from them mainly in the dramatically lower abundance of Collembola.

Table III. Matrix of similarity values for comparisons among the surface sites using Kendall's "tau" rank correlation coefficient. Based on data in Table I.

SITE	LL	MI	MC	Or	Po	Ba	Es	LH	IH	IT
Lava Lake	—	.50	.65	.20	.70	.61	.27	.58	.42	.31
Malpais interior	.50	—	.48	.13	.46	.28	.44	.19	.33	.15
Malpais costero	.65	.48	—	.25	.80	.53	.16	.57	.20	.12
Orilla	.20	.13	.25	—	.36	.22	.24	.05	.05	-.02
Posadero	.70	.46	.80	.36	—	.56	.18	.42	.24	.09
Barranco	.61	.28	.53	.22	.56	—	-.02	.28	.17	.03
Esquina	.27	.44	.16	.24	.18	-.02	—	.13	.29	.36
Lava Halcones	.58	.39	.57	.05	.42	.28	.13	—	.21	.15
Isote Halcones	.42	.33	.20	.05	.24	.17	.29	.21	—	.60
Isote Tabaibas	.31	.15	.12	-.02	.09	.03	.36	.15	.60	—

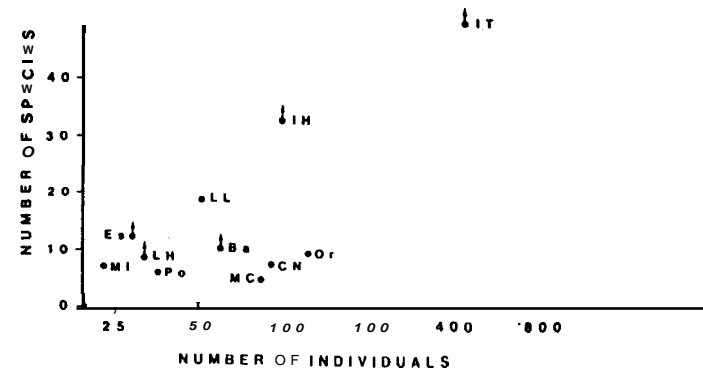
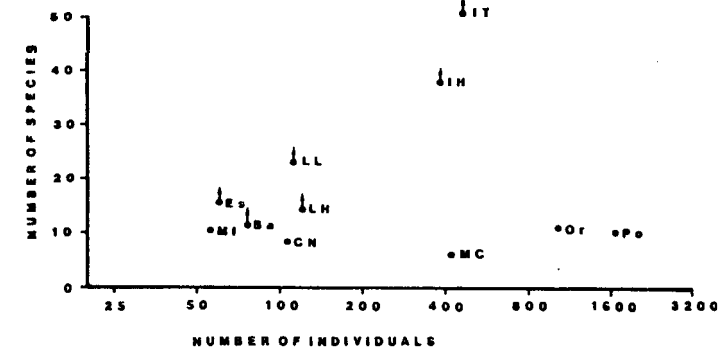


Figure 3. A: Relationship between the number of individuals and the number of species of arthropods (including Collembola) recorded from each site. Upward-pointing arrows indicate that numbers of species at these sites were minima, since not all taxa could be worked out to the species level. Abbreviations as in Figs. 1 and 2. B: The same as Fig. 3A, but with Collembola omitted.

Esquina and Malpaís interior, which are both several kilometres inland and have been colonized by lichens, both seem to have few animals; we did not catch Gryllidae at either and Lepismatidae were absent at Esquina and scarce at Malpaís interior. Lava Halcones had moderate numbers of Collembola, but very few beetles. Lago de Lava, relatively far inland and fairly close to large islotes, had much the most diverse fauna of the recent lava sites. Isote Halcones and Isote Tabaibas, the two sites on much older rocks, differed in that Halcones was an isolated steep ridge with sparse vegetation, while Tabaibas was a gully with a fairly rich *Euphorbia* community, forming part of a more extensive area of older rocks. Both had few Lepismatidae and Gryllidae, but good representation of a number of groups (such as Acari, Homoptera, Lepidoptera, various Coleoptera and Diptera, and Formicidae) that were hardly present on the historic lava sites.

In 1984 we were intrigued by the fact that our site near the coast (Malpaís costero), in an area where lichens were virtually absent, produced strikingly higher numbers of arthropods than the two sampling sites further inland (Malpaís interior and Lago de Lava), where there was a heavy growth of lichens. In 1985 the four sites Orilla, Posadero, Barranco and Esquina were therefore chosen to investigate the phenomenon further: they formed a transect from the shore to a point 4 km inland, and were all on aa lava. Fig. 5 shows that the 1985 data are in general agreement with those of 1984. Numbers of both Collembola and macro-arthropod scavengers such as isopods, lepismatids, gryllids and beetles are strikingly low at the inland sites in comparison with those near the coast. On this transect there was a dramatic reduction in numbers of Collembola between Posadero, 200 m inland, and Barranco, 500 m inland. Furthermore *Seira* n. sp., which was so abundant near the coast, was replaced at Barranco by much smaller numbers of its congener, *Seira ferrari*, which occurred only at inland historic lava sites.

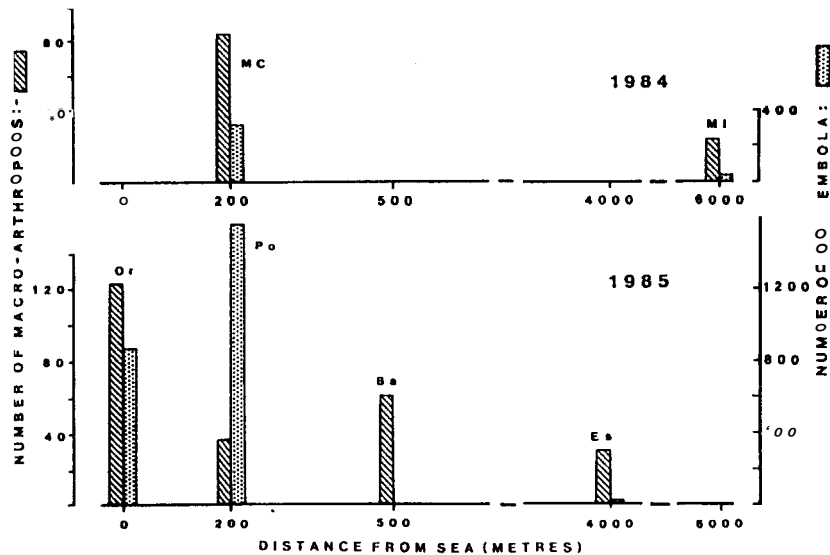


Figure 4. Numbers of Collembola (right-hand scale) and of larger arthropods (left-hand scale) obtained at a series of sites on historic lava differing in their distance from the sea.

COMMENTS ON TAXA OF SPECIAL INTEREST

Only selected taxa are discussed here: a summary of all the invertebrates found at each site is given in Table 1 and details at the species level are in the Appendix.

ISOPODA: ARMADILLIDÆ

Armadillo n.sp. Five individuals found at Orilla are being described by Dr Berndt Hoese as a new species. The occurrence of this species only at this site is somewhat surprising, since its relative *A. ausseli* Dollfus, which is restricted to the more westerly Canary Islands, is never found near the sea (HOESE, 1984 and pers comm.).

COLLEMBOLA: ENTOMOBRYIDÆ

Seira dinizi Gama. This species, recently described by M.M. GAMA (1988) dominates the collembolan communities near the coast, on both the historic lava and the older rocks.

Pseudosinella trioculata Gama. This recently discovered (GAMA, 1988) was represented by two individuals at Posadero and two at Lava Halcones.

COLLEMBOLA: BOURLETIELLIDÆ

Prorastriopes canariensis Paclt. A few individuals were obtained on old rocks at Pleitito.

COLEOPTERA: MELYRIDÆ

Gietella fortunata Constantin & Menier, 1987. A new subfamily (Gietellinae) was established for this species, which has been found also on Hierro and La Palma. On Lanzarote we found adults only at Orilla, but larvae referred to this species also occurred at Posadero (CONSTANTIN & MENIER, in prep.). No *Gietella* were caught in the few traps set on the coastal old lava at Pleitito, suggesting that this beetle may be adapted to life near the sea in the species-poor communities on recent lava; it seems to occupy similar habitats on the islands of Hierro and La Palma (MARTIN OROMI & IZQUIERDO, 1987).

Ifnidius petricola Plata-Negrache. This species, originally recorded from E Golfo, Lanzarote (PLATA-NEGRACHE & EVERS, 1987) has not yet been found on other islands in the Canaries, though the genus is represented in Morocco and on the Salvage Islands (EVERS, 1981). Like *Gietella*, this brachypterous species seems to be well adapted to life on the recent lava, but it is probably not so restricted to the coast. In 1985 adults were found at all three transect stations from Orilla to Barranco; no adults were obtained in 1984, but in both years we trapped substantial numbers of melyrid larvae different from those of *Gietella* at several sites on the recent lava, including some well inland (see Appendix), and it is likely that these are referable to *Ifnidius*. The absence of this species from the islotes of Tabaibas and Halcones suggests that it is a true "lavicole". However, a few individuals were trapped among much larger numbers of Anthicidae on the coast at Pleitito, which is on older lava but with very few plants.

DISCUSSION

KUNKEL (1981), in his discussion of vegetational succession in the Parque Nacional de Timanfaya, stated that in areas far from islotes even the initial stage of plant succession, involving establishment of an association of lichens dominated by *Stereocaulon vesuvianum*, was not apparent in the zone within about 2 km of the coast. KUNKEL also suggested that the first mosses were to be seen between 3 and 4 km inland. In general our observations conform to this pattern, although we did find a few lichens and scattered tiny patches of moss relatively close to the coast.

Our sampling of the animals, however, showed a very different situation. Recent lava away from the coast proved to be poor in numbers of individuals and of species (Table 1 and Figs. 3, 4 and 5). In contrast, very close to the coast there were abundant Collembola, together with an array of larger arthropod scavengers, dominated by flightless melyrid beetles, flightless gryllids and isopod crustaceans. Our data suggest that reduction in numbers of Collembola occurs between 200 and 500 m from the coast (Fig. 5). The community existing close to the coast evidently cannot be supported by primary production of macroscopic terrestrial plants, but there are

several other possibilities.

At present there is hardly any information on the microorganisms involved in successional processes on historic lava of Lanzarote. Studies on the nitrogen cycle of the recent volcanic island of Surtsey, off Iceland (e.g. HENRIKSSON & RODGEIS, 1978), demonstrate substantial nitrogen fixation by blue-green algae, but this process is unlikely to be so important on Lanzarote since it depends on high humidity. We have, however, demonstrated bacterial activity on the Lanzarote lava: cellulose sticky tape impregnated, transferred to "marine agar" (DIFCO Laboratories, Detroit, Michigan) and subsequently incubated at 20 °C by Dr. W.D. Grant, showed that Posadero and Barranco had significant populations of heterotrophic bacteria.

ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE (1987) suggested that the coastal parts of the historic lava on Lanzarote might receive significant quantities of organic material in the form of marine bacteria concentrated in bursting bubbles at sea and carried over the land in the "sea-salt aerosol" (BLANCHARD, 1983). In 1985 we attempted to find out whether input of this kind was greater close to the coast by exposing marine agar plates on small posts at the four sites on our sampling transect from Orilla inland to Esquina. Two series of experiments were spoiled respectively by rain and intense sun, but single plates exposed for about an hour on the last day of our field work at Orilla, Posadero and Barranco each produced a variety of bacterial colonies on incubation (W.D. GRANT, pers. comm.). It therefore seems possible that input of marine bacteria plays a significant role in the maintenance of the lava ecosystem close to the sea.

As indicated earlier, we suppose that in most barren lava flows on the Canaries the main resource of the arthropod communities is biological fallout, mainly comprising aerially dispersing arthropods. In 1984 we used water traps on Lanzarote to confirm that some fallout occurred at Lago de Lava (ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE, unpublished). It seems unlikely, however, that the recent lava near the coast receives much arthropod fallout, since it is an area with prevalent onshore northerly winds, although there are sometimes periods with easterly winds from the Satiara.

Another possibility is simply that high biological activity in the intertidal zone, coupled with the mobility of individual animals, leads to transfer of organic material up to a few hundred metres inland: this input could in principle support populations of microorganisms and a community of arthropods.

At present we have no basis for judging which of these processes is most important on the historic lava on Lanzarote, and it is clear that much more work is needed before the nutritional basis of this unusual ecosystem is fully understood.

The sampling on Lanzarote in 1984 provided the basis for a comparison between the fauna of historic lava flows on Tenerife and Lanzarote (ASHMOLE & ASHMOLE, 1987), and the new data do not change that picture significantly. In a subsequent study of a recent lava flow near the coast on Hierro Island, MARTIN, OROMI & IZQUIERDO (1987) found that at the trapping station closest to the sea the most abundant arthropod was the melyrid beetle *Gietella fortunata*, which also occurs on recent lava near the sea on Lanzarote. Of the Hierro lava flow Collembola were relatively scarce, the community slightly further from the sea being dominated by the dermapteran *Anataelia lavicola* Martin & Oromi; another species of *Anataelia* is typical of coastal habitats on Tenerife (GANGWERE et al., 1972) and is also known from Goniara, but the genus has not been recorded from Gran Canaria, Fuerteventura or Lanzarote.

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APPENDIX. Systematic list of invertebrates collected on historic lava and adjacent areas on Lanzarote in 1984 and 1985. Main figures indicate the number of individuals caught during searching.

	Lago de lava	Malpais interior	Malpais costero	Orilla	Posadero	Barranco	Esquina	Lava Halcónes	Islote Halcónes	Islote Tababas	Cueva Naturalistas
	1984	1985									
GASTROPODA											
<i>Theba pisana</i> (Müller)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	-+1
<i>Canariella</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+3	-	-
PSEUDOSCORPIONES											
GARYPIDAE											
<i>Geogarypus canariensis</i> (Tullgren)	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1
OPILIONES											
PHALANGIIDAE											
<i>Bunochelis spinifera</i> (Lucas)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
ARANEAE											
PHOLCIDAE											
<i>Spermophora fuerstevenluriae</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+2
Wunderlich	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Spermophora</i> sp.	+1	1	-	-	-	+1	-	-	-	-	-
OECOBIIDAE											
<i>Oecobius</i> sp.	2	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	7+1	2	-
LINYPHIIDAE											
Indet.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DYSDERIDAE											
<i>Dysdera</i> sp.	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
GNAPHOSIDAE											
<i>Scotognapha ? conveq</i> (Simon)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
SALTICIDAE											
<i>Phlegra lucasi</i> (Roewer)	-	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	-	-	-
<i>Pelienes</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Chalcascyrllus</i> sp.	+1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SCYTODIDAE											
<i>Scytodes tenerifensis</i> Wunderlich	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	-
THERIDIIDAE											
<i>Stealada grossa</i> (C.L.Koch)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+1
<i>Steatoda</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	+1	-	+4
ACARI											
ANYSTIDAE											
Indet.	2	-	-	-	-	2	2	3	22+2	13	-
Fam. indei.	1	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
ISOPODA											
PORCELLIONIDAE											
<i>Porcellio laevis</i> Latreille	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	-
<i>Porcellionides sexfasciatus</i> (Budde-Lund)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2+1
ARMADILLIDAE											
<i>Armadillo</i> sp.	-	-	-	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
HALOPHILOSCIIDAE											
<i>Halophiloscia couchi</i> (Kinahan)	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
TYLIDAE											
<i>Tylos latreillei</i> Audouin	-	-	-	19	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fam. indei.	-	-	-	-	-	1	7	2	1	-	-
DIPLOPODA											
POLYXENIDAE											
Indet.	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
COLLEMBOLA											
HYPOGASTRURIDAE											
<i>Xenylla b. brevisimilis</i> Stach	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
<i>Xenylla</i> sp.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
<i>Haloxenylla affiniiformis</i> (Stach)	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	2	-	-
ISOTOMIDAE											
<i>Poisomides angularis</i> (Axelson)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-

