

**A new species of *Oligota* MANNERHEIM
from the Ilhas Selvagens
(Insecta: Coleoptera: Staphylinidae: Aleocharinae)**

With 6 figures

VOLKER ASSING

Abstract. *Oligota selvagensis* sp. n. is described from the Ilhas Selvagens, Portugal. Primary and secondary sexual characters are illustrated. The new species, apparently endemic in the Selvagens and the sister species of *O. hirtus* WILLIAMS from La Palma, is distinguished from other brachypterous congeners from the Canary Islands.

Introduction

The Oligotini are represented in the Canary Islands by ten species, nine species of *Oligota* MANNERHEIM and one of *Holobus* SOLIER. Five of the species of *Oligota* are endemic in the Canarian archipelago (WILLIAMS 1973; ASSING 1999). So far, no *Oligota* has been recorded from the Ilhas Selvagens, which are separated from the northern Canary Islands by some 200 km. Staphylinid material sent to me by Dr. Pedro OROMÍ, Tenerife, included six brachypterous specimens of a new species of *Oligota*, which is described below.

The measurements in the description are indicated in mm and abbreviated as follows: HW: maximal head width including eyes; PW: maximal width of pronotum; PL: length of pronotum along median line; EL: length of elytra from apex of scutellum to elytral hind margin; TL: total length.

Oligota selvagensis sp. n.

Holotype ♂: Islas Salvajes, Selvagem Grande, en arenal, 21/26-V-1999, M. ARECHAULETA leg. (Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Santa Cruz de Tenerife).

Paratypes: 1 ♂, 3 ♀, 1 ex. with apex of abdomen missing; same data as holotype (Museo de Ciencias Naturales, Santa Cruz de Tenerife, coll. OROMÍ, coll. ASSING).

Description:

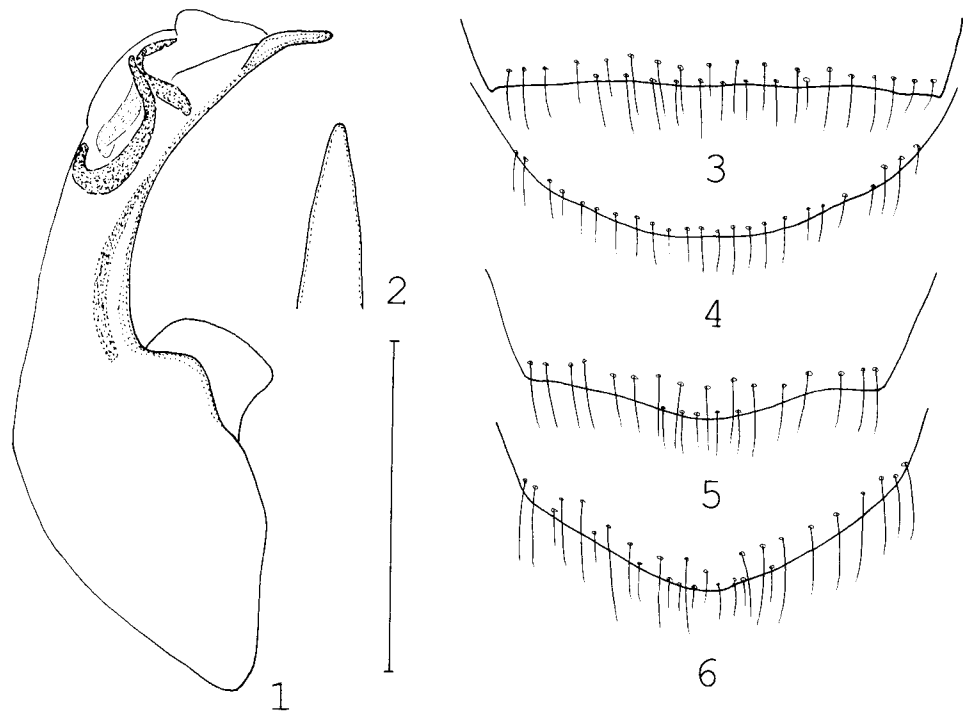
In both external and sexual characters similar to *O. hirtus* WILLIAMS from La Palma, but distinguished as follows:

Measurements (mm) and ratios (range; n = 5): HW: 0.23–0.26; PW: 0.30–0.32; PL: 0.21–0.24; EL: 0.18–0.21; TL: 1.50–1.75; PW/HW: 1.24–1.33; PW/PL: 1.31–1.43; EL/PL: 0.81–0.88.

(For comparison, the measurements for *O. hirtus* are given [range, arithmetic mean; n = 21]: HW: 0.20–0.24, 0.22; PW: 0.25–0.33, 0.29; PL: 0.17–0.23, 0.20; EL: 0.14–0.23, 0.18; TL: 1.0–1.7, 1.4; PW/HW: 1.20–1.42, 1.29; PW/PL: 1.36–1.60, 1.46; EL/PL: 0.80–1.00, 0.90).

Author's address:

Volker Assing, Gabelsbergerstraße 2, D - 30163 Hannover. E-mail: vassing.hann@t-online.de



Figs 1–6: *Oligota selvagensis* sp. n. (1–4; holotype): median lobe of aedeagus in lateral view (1); apex of median lobe in ventral view (2); hind margins of ♂ tergum VIII (4) and sternum VIII (5); hind margins of ♀ tergum VIII (5) and sternum VIII (6).

Size larger and elytra (in relation to pronotum) longer than in average *O. hirtus* (see measurements and ratios).

Coloration different: Body reddish brown, with the abdominal segment VI infuscate; in *O. hirtus* the whole body is ± uniformly testaceous.

♂: Hind margins of tergum and sternum VIII as in Figs 3, 4; aedeagus with ventral process of median lobe in lateral view ± smoothly arcuate (in *O. hirtus* almost straight, with the apex distinctly bent); crista apicalis longer and internal structures of slightly different shape (Figs 1, 2; for an illustration of the aedeagus of *O. hirtus* see Fig. 3c in ASSING 1999).

♀: As in *O. hirtus* without sclerotized spermatheca; hind margin of tergum VIII weakly, that of sternum VIII strongly convex (Figs 5, 6); in *O. hirtus*, the hind margin of tergum VIII is ± truncate.

Comparative notes and phylogenetics:

Judging from the similar external characters and morphology of the aedeagus (general shape, internal structures), *O. selvagensis* is apparently the sister species of *O. hirtus* from La Palma. Although the latter species is highly variable not only in body size and proportions, but also in the size of the aedeagus, the distinguishing characters indicated in the description above appear to be constant. From the other two brachypterous Canarian species, *O. pseudohirtus* WILLIAMS from Tenerife and *O. stefaniae* ASSING from La Gomera, *O. selvagensis* is readily distinguished by its larger size, darker colour, an infuscate abdominal segment VI, and the different morphology of the aedeagus (see illustrations in ASSING 1999).

Distribution and bionomics:

The species is apparently endemic in the Ilhas Selvagens. In contrast to the close relatives from the Canary Islands, which are usually found in Laurisilva, *G. selvagensis* was collected in sand, among the roots of *Nicotiana glauca*, in a sandy locality on the plateau of the Selvagem Grande (ca. 100 m a.s.l.) (OROMÍ, pers. comm.).

Acknowledgements

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References

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 WILLIAMS, S. A. (1973): The genus *Oligota* MANNERHEIM (Col. Staphylinidae) in the Canary Islands. – *Entomologist's Monthly Mag.* **108** (1972): 222–229.

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