

SCIENTIFIC NOTE

FIRST RECORD OF *TROCHOIDEUS DESJARDINSI* GUÉRIN-MÉNEVILLE, 1838
(COLEOPTERA: ENDOMYCHIDAE: PLEGANOPHORINAE) FROM CUBA

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Trochoideus desjardinsi Guérin-Méneville, 1838 is a mycophagous beetle in the family Endomychidae, originally described from Mauritius but now widespread and commonly collected throughout the Old World tropics, particularly southeastern Asia (Strohecker 1980; Skelley and Burgess 1995; Shockley *et al.* 2009a). In the literature, *T. desjardinsi* is often reported to be myrmecophilic or termitophilic, having been found in the nests of some species of ants and termites (Wasmann 1894; Arrow 1925; Beeson 1941; Lawrence and Reichardt 1969; Hölldobler and Wilson 1990; Shockley *et al.* 2009b). However, this species is not just a nest inquiline with social insects, because it has also been collected on rotting coconut husks, under the bark of logs, and in heaps of refuse (Beeson 1941; Shockley 2009; Shockley *et al.* 2009b), as well as with stored and transported grain products (Hinton 1945; Aitken 1975; Shockley *et al.* 2009b).

Because *T. desjardinsi* feeds on the mold that occurs on grain or rotting coconut husks, the species has now become cosmopolitan in distribution due to the globalization of shipping, but it remains largely restricted to more equatorial climates. According to data from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry of New Zealand (MAF), living and dead *T. desjardinsi* specimens are regularly detected during the inspection of sea containers arriving in New Zealand by ships carrying a variety of different cargoes (Border Management Group 2003). Because of the beetle's ability to survive on a variety of stored products and/or the fungi that grow on those products, it has the potential to be economically important. Thus, new country records remain



Fig. 1. Female *Trochoideus desjardinsi*, collected in the Jibacoa Playa, Cuba.



Fig. 2. Coastal tropical forest, showing the habitat where the specimens of *Trochoideus desjardinsi* were collected.

important for tracking changes and expansions in the species' distribution.

Herein, we report, for the first time, the detection of *T. desjardinsi* in Cuba (**new country record**), only the second report of this species for the Western Hemisphere, having been previously collected only in Florida (USA) (Skelley and Burgess 1995). Collection data are as follows: 23.II.2017, Cuba, Mayabeque Province, Jibacoa Playa, 23°08'49.2" N, 81°51'08.5" W, S. Yu. Mukhanov leg. (five females) (Fig. 1). According to the collector, the beetles were collected under bark in coastal tropical forest (Fig. 2). This collection event suggests that there may be an established population in Cuba, given that the locality was not associated with a port of entry (the most common interception/detection point for *T. desjardinsi*). Given that the endomychid fauna of Cuba is relatively unknown (or at least unpublished), the report of any species adds to our knowledge of West Indian beetle distributions and is therefore noteworthy.

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