

Basteria

Tijdschrift van de Nederlandse Malacologische Vereniging



VOLUME
78 (4-6)
2015



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ISSN-0005-6219

*Het papier van dit tijdschrift voldoet aan de normen voor duurzaamheid van het
Committee on Production Guidelines for Book Longevity van de Council on Library Resources.*

Gedrukt door HIGH TRADE, Zwolle

First record of *Boettgerilla pallens* Simroth, 1912 (Gastropoda, Pulmonata, Boettgerillidae) on the Canary Islands

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The first record of *Boettgerilla pallens* Simroth, 1912, on La Palma, Canary Islands is reported.

Keywords: *Boettgerilla*, biogeography, La Palma, Canary Islands.

Within the scope of a broader investigation, multiple plots on the island of La Palma were investigated (Margry, 2014). On 6.v.2014, a specimen of *Boettgerilla pallens* Simroth, 1912, was found in a dry streambed of the Barranco de La Zarza (28°49'01 N 17°54'17 W, 830 m a.s.l.) in a Laurel forest (Perseo-Lauretum Azoricae) along the short distance footpath PR LP 9,2 between La Mata en Don Pedro. The slug has a length of 20 mm (alcohol measurement) and is sub-adult. The back is already grey and the pneumostome is slightly paler than the mantle. It is kept in the collection of the author.

The record is new for the Canary Islands as a whole. *Boettgerilla pallens* has its native distribution in the Caucasus but occurs now all over Europe (Colville et al., 1974; Reise et al., 2000). Bank (2011) does not mention it for the Macaronesian Islands. It has also been reported from Canada and the USA (Reise et al., 2000; Mc Donnell et al., 2014).

Due to the fact that this easily recognizable species is absent in earlier studies, a recent introduction seems most likely. However, *B. pallens* has a hidden way of life and La Palma has a dense vegetation in its northern gorges, which makes some of the terrain hard to explore. Some other species, like e.g. *Carychium tridentatum* (Risso, 1826) were discovered only recently (Topley, 2005). Kappes et al. (2009) found seven species, two of which had not been reported before. The introduction of non-native species may eventually lead to a decline in biodiversity. This would be an undesirable development considering the large amount of species

that are endemic to the Canary Islands. As Kappes et al. (2009) emphasized, it is worthwhile to continue monitoring the Canary Islands for conservation strategy purposes.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author is grateful to Dr. Ton de Winter, Naturalis Biodiversity Center, for the provision of literature.

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