

***Thorictus palmensis* sp. nov., a new species from Canary Islands (Coleoptera: Dermestidae: Thorictinae)**

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Taxonomy, new species, Coleoptera, Dermestidae, Thorictini, *Thorictus*, Spain, Canary Islands

Abstract. *Thorictus palmensis* sp. nov. is described, illustrated and compared with similar species distributed in Canary Islands. A list of known *Thorictus* species recorded from Canary Islands is provided. The ant species *Lasius grandis* Forel, 1909 is recorded as a host ant for the new species.

INTRODUCTION

The myrmecophilous dermestid genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834 currently includes 165 species and subspecies known from the Palaearctic, Oriental and Afrotropical Regions (Háva 2013, 2014), 13 species have still been known from Canary Islands (Háva 2015, Löbl 2007). In the present paper, the authors described a new species of *Thorictus* recently collected in Canary Islands: La Palma Is.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The following measurements were made:

total length (TL) - linear distance from anterior margin of head to apex of elytra;

pronotal length (PL) - maximum length measured from anterior margin to posterior margin;

pronotal width (PW) - maximum linear transverse distance;

elytral length (EL) - linear distance from shoulder to apex of elytron;

elytral width (EW) - maximum linear transverse distance

Abbreviation: JHAC - Jiří Háva, Private Entomological Laboratory & Collection, Únětice u Prahy, Prague-west, Czech Republic.

All photos (living specimen and dry specimen) were made by Canon EOS 5D mark II camera with Canon MP-E 65 1-5x macro lens. For the picture of dry specimen the method of stacking photography was used and pictures were processed by using the Zerene Stacker software.

DESCRIPTIONS

Genus *Thorictus* Germar, 1834

„*T. orientalis* species group“

***Thorictus palmensis* sp. nov.**
(Figs. 1-5)

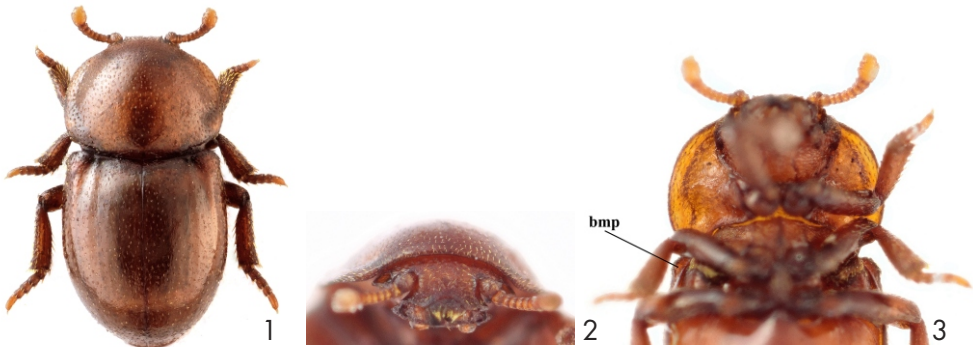
Type material. Holotype (unsexed): Spain, Canary Islands, La Palma, Pico de la Cruz, 2150 m., 11.ii.2014. Holotype deposited in (JHAC).

Description. Body small (Fig. 1), castaneous brown, covered by short, yellow setae on dorsal surface and short setae on ventral surface. Measurements (mm): TL 1.88 EL 1.18 PL 0.7 EW 0.99 PW 0.95. Head finely punctate with very short, yellow, recumbent setae. Labial palpi entirely brown. Antennae brown, with 11 antennomeres, antennal club compact, with 3 antennomeres, terminal antennomere with short yellow setae. Lateral eyes on head with very small granules. Pronotum as finely punctate as head, covered by short, yellow, recumbent setation. Lateral margin of pronotum very finely dentate. Posterior angles without long yellow setae. Ventral posterior pronotal angles without yellow setation. Scutellum small, triangular, without setation. Elytra very finely punctate, covered by short, recumbent, yellow setae; lateral yellow setation erect; with two depressions in anterior half near scutellum. Epipleuron finely punctate, anterior angles with large bump; bump coarsely punctured with yellow setation. Prosternum finely punctate. Mesosternum with small, foveolate punctures. Metasternum finely punctate. Visible abdominal sternites very finely punctate, covered by very short, recumbent, yellow setae. Striation on first visible abdominal sternite long. Legs brown, covered by long, yellow setae.

Differential diagnosis. The new species belongs to the „*Thorictus orientalis* species group“ according to characters stated by John (1963) and is similar to the species *Thorictus canariensis* Wollaston, 1862 but differs from it by the very small body, structure of setation on ventral part of pronotum and epipleural bumps.

Etymology. Toponymic, named according to La Palma Island.

Bionomy. Holotype specimen collected in a nest of the ant *Lasius grandis* Forel, 1909 (Hymenoptera) (Fig. 6).



Figs. 1-3. *Thorictus palmensis* sp. nov.: 1- habitus, dorsal aspect; 2- head; 3- pronotum and epipleuron, ventral aspect (bmp- bump).



Figs. 4-5. *Thorictus palmensis* sp. nov. from ant nest of *Lasius grandis* Forel, 1909.

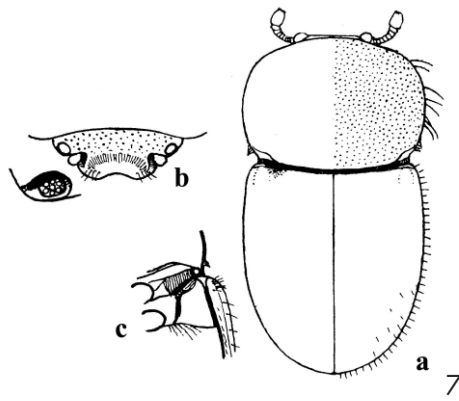


Fig. 6. Ant *Lasius grandis* Forel, 1909 from La Palma (photo P. Krásenský).

Fig. 7. *Thorictus canariensis* Wollaston, 1862: a- habitus, dorsal aspect; b- head; c- posterior pronotal angle and epipleuron, ventral aspect (according to John 1963).

LIST OF *THORICTUS* SPECIES RECORDED FROM CANARY ISLANDS

Abbreviations. H – El Hiero, P – La Palma, G – La Gomera, T – Tenerife, C – Gran Canaria, F – Fuerteventura, L – Lanzarote.

species	H	P	G	T	C	F	L
<i>T. canariensis</i> Wollaston, 1862 = <i>obsitus</i> Wollaston, 1864	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
<i>T. cobosi</i> John & Andreae, 1967 = <i>cobosi</i> John, 1969			*				
<i>T. deviedmai</i> John, 1965				*			
<i>T. franzi</i> John, 1967					*		
<i>T. gigas</i> Wollaston, 1862					*		
<i>T. helleri</i> John, 1963				*			
<i>T. lindbergi</i> John, 1963					*		
<i>T. palmensis</i> sp. nov.		*					
<i>T. subpusilus</i> John, 1965				*			
<i>T. tamadabanus</i> John, 1964					*		

species	H	P	G	T	C	F	L
<i>T. tejedanus</i> John & Andreae, 1967 = <i>tejedanus</i> John, 1969					*		
<i>T. tenerifanus</i> John, 1965				*			
<i>T. vestitus</i> Wollaston, 1864							*
<i>T. wollastoni</i> John, 1963				*	*		
Total number of species	1	2	2	6	7	1	2

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