

## SCIENTIFIC NOTE

### The Galápagos “endemic” *Ochthebius batesoni* Blair (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae) found on mainland South America

*Ochthebius batesoni* Blair, 1933 (Coleoptera: Hydraenidae) is a widespread inhabitant of coastal ponds and lagoons in the Galápagos Islands (Perkins 1980; Gerecke *et al.* 1995). It is morphologically very similar to *O. attritus* LeConte, 1878 which has a circum-Caribbean distribution (but recorded from eastern Brazil) and is also typical of coastal saline lagoons. Although the Caribbean-Galápagos disjunction is a common biogeographical pattern (*e.g.*, Rosen 1975), Perkins (1980) noted the possibility that the true range of these species was larger, as characteristic of inhabitants of saline coastal lagoons.

A series of 20 specimens of *Ochthebius* was collected by one of us (PA) in a brackish lagoon on the Peruvian coast at Chorrillos, Pantano de la Villa on 6 August 2004. The comparison with specimens of *O. batesoni* from Galápagos (Isabela, 12.1992, 9 exemplars collected and identified by R. Gerecke) revealed no appreciable differences in external morphology or male genitalia. On 31 August 2005, six additional specimens were collected at San Clemente, Panamericana Sur Km 222 (ca. 200 km south of Lima). At both localities, the species was found together with *Gymnochthebius peruvianus* (J. Balfour-Browne 1971). Subsequently, P. D. Perkins provided additional information on the presence of the species in mainland Ecuador, obtained from specimens preserved in the USNM: Ecuador: El Oro, Arenillas (8 km SE), Lacuca exp. sta., fish culture pond, 22 May 1979, coll. J. J. Anderson (3 exx.); Guayas, Boliche (14.5 km S), roadside drainage ditch, 14 January 1978, coll. P. J. Spangler & J. Anderson (1 ex.); Guayas, Naranjal (30 km N), 24 December 1977, coll. J. J. Anderson (1 ex.); Manabí, Bahía de Caraquez (35.6 km E), culvert ditch, elev. 20 m, 9 January 1978, coll. P. J. Spangler (4 exx.).

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#### Literature cited

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