



Short note – Kurzmitteilung

No. 6/2014 Nr. 6/2014

Faunistics – Faunistik

Palaeartic Region – Paläarktische Region

***Scaeva dignota* (RONDANI)**
found for the first time on the Canary Islands (Diptera: Syrphidae)

[*Scaeva dignota* (RONDANI)]
 erstmals auf den Kanarischen Inseln gefunden (Diptera: Syrphidae)]

by

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The Canary Islands are of volcanic origin and have never been connected to a continent. Due to their isolated position in the Atlantic Ocean, 100 km off the coast of Morocco, only few species of Syrphidae have established populations on the islands. A total number of 34 species are recorded, 28 of which are known from Tenerife. Eleven species are considered as endemic, seven of which occur on Tenerife (BÁEZ & GARCÍA 2004). One species is of Central American origin and has probably been introduced (BÁEZ 2000, ROMIG & HAUSER 2004). The remaining 16 species are widespread West-Palaeartic species, and several of those are known to be strongly migratory. This is also true for *Scaeva dignota* (RONDANI, 1857), which is here recorded from the Canary Islands for the first time.

A female of *Scaeva dignota* was collected by the author on February 20th 2013 in northern Tenerife, in an area called Chanajiga, 3 km South of Los Realejos, near the village Los Llanadas. The specimen was flying through herbaceous vegetation along a road through laurel forest. It is deposited in the collection of the University of La Laguna on Tenerife, Spain (collection managed by Dr Marcos BAEZ FUMERO).

Scaeva dignota is common in southern Europe and also known from North Africa (CLAUSSEN & HAUSER 1990, DIRICKX 1994, DUŠEK & LÁSKA 1985). In the northern part of its European range (Denmark, northern Germany, the Netherlands) it is rare and usually only found when hot weather conditions favour long distance migration from southern Europe (DOCZKAL 1996, REEMER et al. 2009, TORP 1994). Under such conditions, other species of *Scaeva* also tend to migrate (GATTER & SCHMID 1990). The larvae of *Scaeva dignota* feed on aphids on a variety of herbs and shrubs, including *Centaurea cyanus*, *Prunus* species, *Sambucus nigra*, and *Vicia faba* (LÁSKA et al. 2006, REEMER 2007).

As only one specimen of *Scaeva dignota* was found on Tenerife, it is unknown whether this represents a local population or if its occurrence should be attributed to incidental migration. However, the species is not critical in its choice of habitat, and the climate on the Canary Islands certainly is favourable, so the existence of a local population seems likely. Distinguishing *S. dignota* from the other two species of *Scaeva* known from the Canary Islands is easy. The species is included in several handbooks for the identification of European Syrphidae, such as BARTSCH (2009), STUBBS & FALK (2002), TORP (1994) and VAN VEEN (2004).