

## Galápagos Islands Earthworms

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c/- YNU, Japan **Sept. 2006/ Nov. 2008.**

A supposedly endemic microdrile is *Aeolosoma maritimum dubiosum* Westheide & Schmidt, 1974 – a native about which very little is known; plus Agriculture introduced three earthworms according to Eckhardt (1972). Currently recorded taxa are:

Family GLOSSOSCOLECIDAE:

*Pontoscolex corethrurus* [e.g. from Santa Rosa, San Cruz, collected M. Mantilla/M. Nakamura, 1994-VII-4, pers. obs.] – **new record.**

Family OCTOCHAETIDAE:

*Dichogaster affinis* [from (Csuzdi, 1997: 37; 2000: 59)],

*Dichogaster bolau* [from Csuzdi (2000) and also from Santa Rosa, San Cruz, Galapagos Islands (collected M. Mantilla/M. Nakamura, 1994-VII-4 – pers. obs.)],

*Dichogaster saliens*.

Family MEGASCOLECIDAE:

*Amyntas corticis* [from Santa Rosa, San Cruz, Galapagos Islands (collected M. Mantilla/M. Nakamura, 1994-VII-4; pers. obs)] – **new record,**

*Amyntas morrisi*,

*Pontodrilus litoralis* [littoral species identified from the Galapagos Islands of Santa Rosa, San Cruz and San Cristobal, (numerous specimens collected by M. Mantilla and M. Nakamura, 4-8.VII.1994); pers. obs.); see Blakemore (2007)] – **new record.**

Family LUMBRICIDAE:

A note by Jacome (1989) says that the introduced earthworm reported from Galapagos by Kastdalan was *Lumbricus terrestris* (Lumbricidae), but this is possibly a misidentification or mistake for the so-called "common earthworm" that would be unlikely to survive in non-temperate soils. The note by Kastdalan (1965) only says “ [ca. 1937] we saw the first big earthworms, about four inches long.”.

It seems that all the megadrile species are introduced and all known species are fully described by Blakemore (2002; 2006). In addition to the above taxa, an ecological survey by Nakamura (1997) claimed three *Microscolex* spp. from the islands, but this study was not provisioned with funding for further taxonomic treatment and their identities remain unknown. If described, these would bring to about ten the number of terrestrial earthworm species known from the Galapagos Islands.

## References

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