

## Adaptative radiation of the genus *Dysdera* (Araneae, Haplogynae) in the Canary Island. An small scale example: La Gomera

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La Gomera belongs to The Canary Islands, a volcanic archipelago placed in the Atlantic Ocean about 100 km from the North African Coast, that consist of seven islands. They are disposed in a, more or less, straight line. It's worthy to comment that this line represents different historical origins of the islands (from 22 m. y. to 0,8 m. y.).

An high habitat diversity in a relatively little area, which is characteristic of the Canary Islands as well as most of the oceanic archipelagos with volcanic origin, together with the closeness of the archipelago to the continent has brought about that many species, specially arthropods, have colonized the Islands and have undergone an adaptative radiation. One of the most species-rich genus in the Canaries is the spider genus *Dysdera*. About 51 endemic species has been described up to now. The extraordinary high number of endemic species together with other outstanding features displayed by the genus yield some patterns that raise lots of evolutionary questions.

La Gomera has been chosen to exemplify some of these patterns because it shows them with a relatively little number of species. Moreover, La Gomera is a good place for boigeographic studies because of its situation at the center of the archipelago, very close to Tenerife the most rich-species Island, which implies that it could be an obligatory step in the colonization of the western islands.

Five *Dysdera* species had been collected in La Gomera up to now. Three of them are endemic: *Dysdera macra* Simon, 1883, *D. insulana gomerensis* Strand, 1911 and *D. sylvatica* Schmidt, 1981; the other two are *D. cribellata* Simon, 1883 known from La Gomera, La Palma and Tenerife and *D. crocota* C. L. Koch, 1839 a cosmopolitan species.

The results of the morphological study of material gathered in expedition to La Gomera during the last 20 years are presented.

Six new species are described, some of these species show clear morphological relationship with species Tenerife while others are very difficult to relate. One of the new species is a case for giantism.

None of these specimens can be assigned to any of the former five species known from La Gomera (the type material of *D. macra* and *D. insulana gomerensis* have not been found).

*D. clavisetae* Wunderlich, 1991 an endemic species from El Hierro is found in La Gomera.

*D. sylvatica* is not a good species because the type material, an the only known specimen, is a juvenile without any genitalia.

We discuss that results in order to give a biogeographic and evolutionary explanations to the emerging pattern.