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## First record of *Hypsicorypha gracilis* (Burmeister, 1838) (Mantodea, Empusidae) from the island of El Hierro

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On the island of El Hierro there are currently 1525 species of arthropods (Gobierno de Canarias [*Banco de Datos de Biodiversidad de Canarias* (08/1/2018)]), of which 139 (9.1%) have their presence in the Canary Islands confirmed on this island alone, with 108 species (7%) being exclusively endemic to it. However, arthropod biodiversity on this island is probably richer than what is known so far. El Hierro is a peripheral island with rather limited transport links with the larger islands, where the main institutions and researchers working with arthropods are located. This has negatively influenced knowledge of the arthropod biodiversity of this island, since most studies have been carried out on the larger, more accessible islands. That is why when scientific campaigns are carried out on El Hierro to learn more about its biodiversity, species new to science or new records for the island are frequently found (for example, Machado, 2011 [*Graellsia* 67 (1): 57-90].; Stüben, 2018 [*Snudebiller: studies on taxonomy, biology and ecology of Curculionidea* 19, No. 269]).

The absence of arthropod specialists living on the island is another reason why new contributions to the knowledge of the arthropod fauna of El Hierro are scarce. However, a strategy to overcome these deficiencies can be the exchange of information (photos, videos, or even sending specimens) between the inhabitants of the island and taxonomic specialists. Indeed, resulting from consultations arising between the authors, the purpose of this note is to make known the presence of a new species on El Hierro.

### ***Hypsicorypha gracilis* (Burmeister, 1838)**

El Hierro. Las Puntas (UTM 27R 0795453/3075113), 25/04/2015, 1♂(Fig. 1).

It is one of the largest mantids present in the Canary Islands, unmistakable due to its elongated, stylized body and delicate appearance. Despite this, this species has been confused with *Empusa pennata* (Thunberg, 1815) on several occasions,

which is why this latter species was cited in the Canary Islands erroneously (Wieland et al., 2014 [*Zootaxa* 3797: 78-102]). *Hypsicorypha gracilis* has a wide distribution across North Africa, from the Canaries to Somalia, including the Arabian Peninsula (Battiston, 2016 [*Hypsicorypha gracilis*, *The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species*, 2016]). In the Canaries it is mentioned for all the islands except La Palma and El Hierro, being located mainly in coastal vegetation waiting for prey (García-Becerra et al., 2001 [*Mantis y cucarachas de Canarias*]).

This mantid has well developed wings and good flight capacity, so its ability to spread across an island and between islands is unquestionable. However, there is the possibility that this specimen is the result of an accidental introduction, since it was collected in the open-air materials warehouse of a hardware store that frequently brings merchandise (pallets with cement and blocks, beams, etc.) from Tenerife.

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**Figura 1.-** Male specimen of *Hysicorypha gracilis* found at Las Puntas [El Hierro] (Photo: M.A. Rodríguez).

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