

EL GENERO EPILACHNA  
(COLEOPTERA: COCCINELLIDAE)  
EN NICARAGUA.

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**Resumen.**

Esta nota presenta las especies del género *Epilachna* (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) conocidas de Nicaragua, con sus datos biológicos.

**Abstract.**

This note presents the *Epilachna* species (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) presently known from Nicaragua, with biological information.

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## Introducción.

Los coleópteros de la familia Coccinellidae, comunmente llamados "mariquitas" son considerados generalmente, y con razón, como benéficos; son depredadores de ácaros e insectos como pulgones, mosca blancas, huevos de diferentes órdenes, etc.

En un trabajo anterior (Maes, 1989) se presentó las diferentes especies de Coccinellidae benéficos conocidos de Nicaragua.

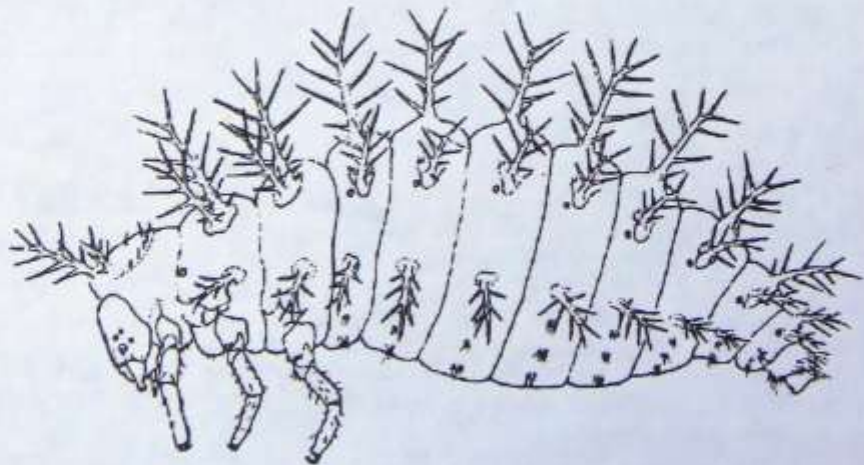
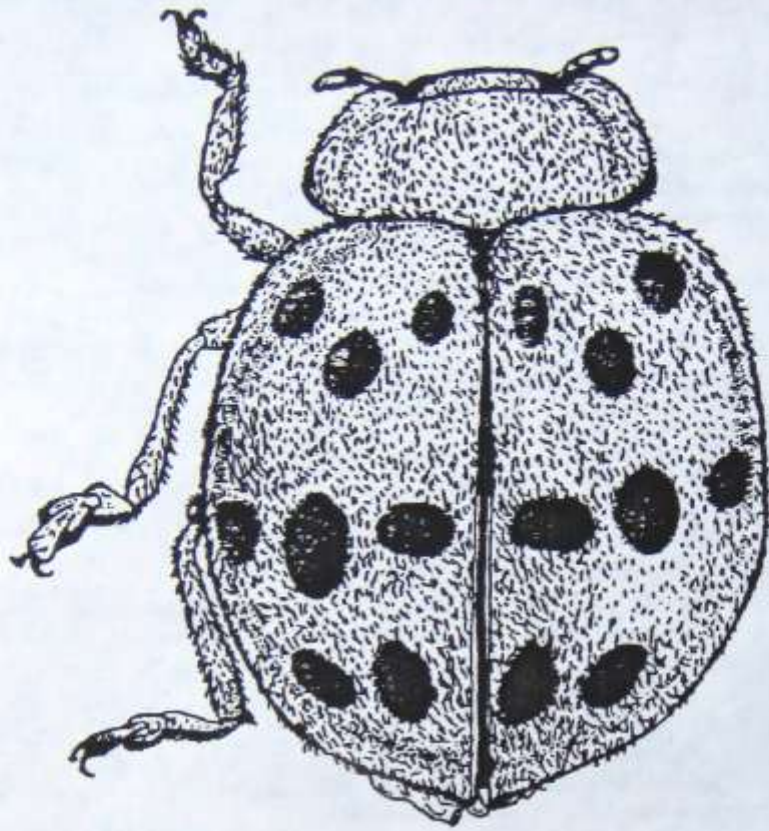
Una subfamilia, los Epilachninae, representada en Nicaragua por un solo genero, *Epilachna*, está formada por especies fitófagas. Las larvas y los adultos comen las hojas de sus hospederos. La larva se reconoce facilmente por tener el cuerpo cubierto de espinas.

En Nicaragua las especies de *Epilachna* son fitófagas principalmente sobre plantas de las familias Cucurbitaceae y Fabaceae. Schwartz & Galvez (1980) citan *Epilachna varivestis* como plaga importante de frijol en Nicaragua, Tapia Barquero & Camacho Henriquez (1988) en su lista de las principales plagas de frijol en Nicaragua, no cita al género *Epilachna*.

El género *Epilachna* está compuesto de especies de coloración variable y que se parecen entre sí, lo que hace problemática su identificación. En Nicaragua hemos encontrado *Epilachna tredecimnotata* sobre Cucurbitaceae silvestres y cultivadas y *Epilachna mexicana* sobre Fabaceae cultivadas. No hemos encontrado ningún espécimen de *Epilachna varivestis* en el campo y tampoco en las colecciones revisadas (Museo Entomológico, S.E.A. y Centro de Protección Vegetal, Ministerio de Agricultura), a pesar de los numerosos especímenes colectados en frijol. Creemos que la especie es rara o ausente en Nicaragua, y que los reportes en la bibliografía son resultados de errores de identificación.

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Figuras de la página opuesta : Adulto y larva de *Epilachna varivestis*..





## Clave de las especies del género *Epilachna* reportadas de Nicaragua.

- 1 - Pronoto negro ..... *Epilachna mexicana*.
  - Pronoto amarillo, a veces con manchas oscuras ..... 2.
- 2 - Elitros con 7 manchas (3-3-1) ..... *Epilachna tredecimnotata*.
  - Elitros con 8 manchas (3-3-2) ..... *Epilachna varivestis*.

## Especies Nicaragüenses.

*Epilachna mexicana* (GUERIN, 1842) [*Coccinella*].

conchuela del frijol, tortuguilla.

= *Coccinella defecta* MULSANT 1850 [*Epilachna*].

= *Coccinella fuscipes* MULSANT [*Epilachna*].

= *Epilachna dealbata* WEISE 1895.

Distribución : USA, México, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua  
(Gorham, 1898; Blackwelder, 1945) (Jinotega, Matagalpa,  
Managua, Carazo, Estelí, Chontales, Masaya), Costa Rica, Panamá,  
Colombia, Brasil.

Fitófago : Fabaceae : *Phaseolus*.

Rubiaceae : *Coffea*.

Cucurbitaceae.

Solanaceae : *Cestrum*, *Nicotiana*.

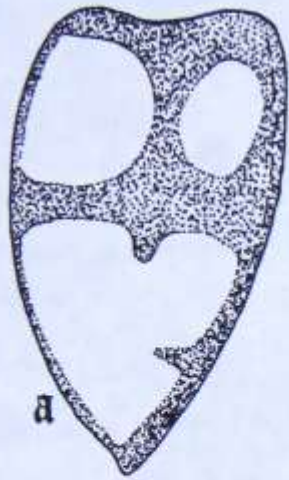
Liliaceae : *Lillium*.

Asteraceae : *Baltimora*.

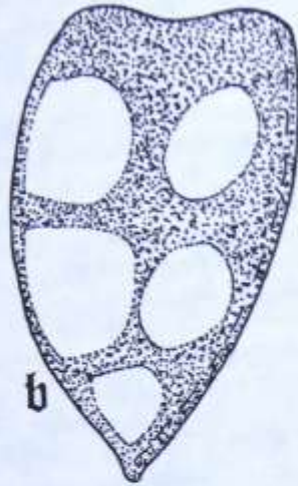
Enemigos naturales :

HYM. Eulophidae : *Pediobius foveolatus*.

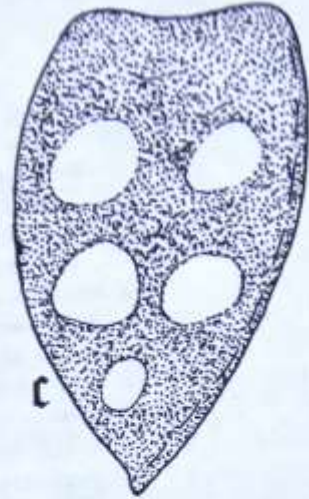
Figuras de la página opuesta : Variación cromática de las especies del género  
*Epilachna* : a-b-c : *Epilachna mexicana*; d-e-f : *Epilachna tredecimnotata*;  
g : *Epilachna varivestis*.



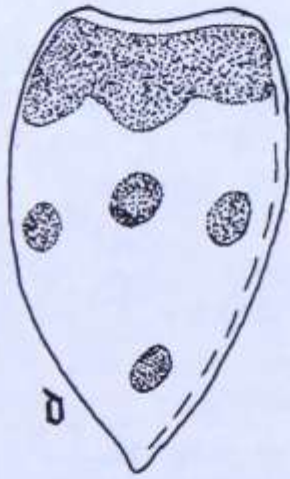
a



b



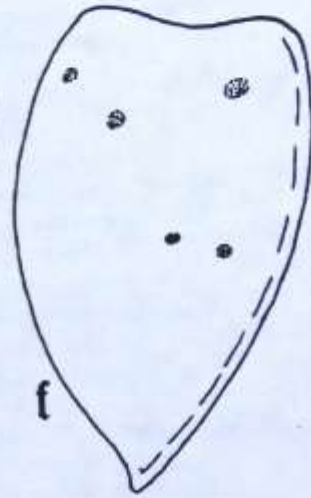
c



d



e



f



g

*Epilachna tredecimnotata* (LATREILLE, 1833) [*Coccinella*].

conchuela del ayote, squash beetle, squash lady beetle, coleóptero de las calabazas, conchita.

= *Coccinella immaculicollis* CHEVROLAT 1834 [*Epilachna*].

= *Epilachna æquinoctialis* MULSANT.

= *Epilachna particollis* MULSANT.

= *Epilachna indiscreta* MULSANT.

= *Epilachna distincta* WEISE 1890.

= *Epilachna borealis* (error).

Distribución : USA, Cuba, México, Belize, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua (Gorham, 1898; Blackwelder, 1945; Gordon, 1975) (Nueva Segovia, Boaco, Chinandega, Managua, Masaya, Carazo, Ometepe, Chontales, Boaco, Jinotega, Estelí, Matagalpa), Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia, Venezuela, Brazil, Argentina.

Fitófago : Fabaceae : *Phaseolus*, *Vigna*, *Cajanus*, *Glycine*.

Rubiaceae : *Coffea*.

Poaceae : *Zea*, *Sorghum*.

Cucurbitaceae : *Cucumis*, *Citrullus*, *Apodanthera*, *Sechium*, *Cucurbita*, *Echinocystis*, *Ecballium*.

Euphorbiaceae : *Manihot*.

Solanaceae : *Nicotiana*.

Malvaceae : *Gossypium*, *Hibiscus*.

Pedaliaceae : *Sesamum*.

Asteraceae : *Baltimora*.

Enemigos naturales :

HYM. Eulophidae : *Pediobius foveolatus*.

Protozoa : Microsporidia : Nosematidae : *Nosema epilachnae*.

*Epilachna varivestis* MULSANT 1850.

escarabajo mexicano del frijol, tortuguilla, conchuela del frijol, mexican bean beetle, mexikanischer bohnenkafer, coccinelle du haricot, bean lady beetle, conchinchuela.

= *Epilachna corrupta* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna cervina* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna difficilis* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna genuina* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna modesta* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna murina* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna varipes* MULSANT 1850.

= *Epilachna maculiventris* BLAND. 1864.

= *Epilachna cuprea* COQ. 1910.

= *Epilachna juncta* JOHNSON 1910.

= *Epilachna toweri* JOHNSON 1910.

Distribución : Canadá, USA, México, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador, Nicaragua (Gordon, 1975; Schwartz & Galvez, 1980), Costa Rica, Panamá.



Fitófago : Fabaceae : *Phaseolus*, *Glycine*, *Vigna*, *Vicia*, *Dolichos*,  
*Desmodium*, *Medicago*.

Enemigos naturales :

HYM. Braconidae : *Synaldis* sp.

Eulophidae : *Pediobius foveolatus*.

*Pleurotropis epilachnae*.

*Tetrastichus ovulorum*.

Formicidae : *Solenopsis geminata*.

DIP. Tachinidae : *Aploymiopsis epilachnae*.

*Exoristoides slossone*.

*Hyalomyodes triangulifera*.

*Lydinolynella metallica*.

*Nemorilla maculosa*.

*Paradexodes epilachnae*.

*Phorocera claripennis*.

*Phorocera doryphorae*.

Phoridae : *Megaselia* sp.

Sarcophagidae : *Sarcophaga latisterna*.

*Sarcophaga rapax*.

*Sarcophaga reinhardi*.

COL. Carabidae : *Calosoma sayi*.

*Harpalus caliginosus*.

*Harpalus pennsylvanicus*.

*Scarites subterraneus*.

Coccinellidae : *Adalia bipunctata*.

*Anatis quinquedecimpunctata*.

*Chilocorus stigma*.

*Chilocorus transversoguttata*.

*Coleomegilla maculata*.

*Cycloneda sanguinea*.

*Hippodamia ambigua*.

*Hippodamia convergens*.

*Hippodamia quinquesignata*.

Cicindelidae : *Megacephala carolina*.

*Megacephala virgibila*.

Melyridae : *Collops bipunctatus*.

HET. Anthocoridae : *Orius insidiosus*.

Coreidae : *Anasa maculipes*.

Nabidae : *Nabis ferus*.

*Nabis roseipennis*.

*Nabis capsiformis*.

Lygaeidae : *Geocoris punctipes*.

Pentatomidae : *Acrosternum hilare*.

*Apateticus lineolatus*.

*Euthyrhynchus floridanus*.

*Oplonus dichrous*.

*Perilloides bioculatus*.

*Perilloides circumcinctus.*  
*Perilloides confluens.*  
*Perilloides virgatus.*  
*Piezodorus guildinii.*  
*Podisus maculiventris.*  
*Podisus sagitta.*  
*Stirethrus anchorago.*  
*Stirethrus caeruleus.*  
Reduviidae : *Apiomerus pictipes.*  
*Arius cristatus.*  
*Prellipus zebra.*  
*Sinea confusa.*  
*Sinea diadema.*  
*Zelus rubidus.*

PLA. Chrysopidae : *Chrysopa sp.*

ACA. Podapolipidae : *Coccipolipus epilachnae.*

*Coccipolipus macfarlanei.*

Protozoa : Microsporidia : Nosematidae : *Nosema epilachnae.*

*Nosema varivestis.*

Bacteria : *Bacillus thuringiensis.*

Virus : Mexican Bean Beetle Rhabdovirus.

Fungi : *Beauveria sp.*

Nematoda : Mermithidae : *Hexameris sp.*

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