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Tenebrionidae (Coleoptera) from the Tunisian island group La Galite with comments on the zoogeography of the archipelago

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Located about 40km North-Northwest of the Tunisian Cap Serrat and 150km South of the Sardinian Capo Spartivento, the island group of volcanic origin, Galite, is composed of the islands La Galite, Galitone, Fouchelle, Gallina, Gallo and Pollastro. Very few studies are available with respect to beetle assemblages inhabiting these islands. In the present contribution, 12 species of Tenebrionidae are reported from this archipelago with one species being recorded for the first time. The highest species abundance was found in La Galite, the largest of the islands. A preliminary analysis of the immigration of the species shows the close relationship of the Galite Tenebrionidae to Europe and not to nearby Africa. Tenebrionidae may have colonised these islands via three possible routes: (i) carried by the sea current, (ii) accidental introduction by humans, and (iii) immigration over former land connections to the islands.

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