

Thirteen new species and new distribution records of *Helicopsyche* (*Feropsyche*) Johanson from Venezuela (Trichoptera: Helicopsychidae)

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Abstract

Thirteen new species of *Helicopsyche* subgenus *Feropsyche* are described and illustrated from Venezuela: *H. auroa*, new species, *H. camuriensis*, new species, *H. circulata*, new species, *H. disjuncta*, new species, *H. laneblina*, new species, *H. lara*, new species, *H. linabena*, new species, *H. neblinensis*, new species, *H. perija*, new species, *H. succincta*, new species, *H. sucrensis*, new species, *H. tachira*, new species, and *H. venezuelensis*, new species. In addition, new distribution records for Venezuela are reported for *H. angulata* Flint, *H. breviterga* Flint, *H. extensa* Ross, *H. fistulata* Flint, *H. grenadensis* Flint & Sykora, *H. maculisternum* Botosaneanu, *H. merida* Botosaneanu & Flint, *H. monda* Flint, *H. selanderi* Ross, *H. vergelana* Ross, and *H. woytkowskii* Ross. Finally, a key to males of the known species in the subgenus from Venezuela is included.

Key words: Trichoptera, Helicopsychidae, *Helicopsyche*, *Feropsyche*, snail case caddisflies, Neotropics, Venezuela, new species, taxonomy, key.

Introduction

The Venezuelan Trichoptera fauna is composed of approximately 240 described species (Flint et al. 1999, Harris & Flint 2002, Harris et al. 2002a, b, Johanson 2003a), of which 90% are included within 6 families: Helicopsychidae (14 spp.), Hydrobiosidae (20 spp.), Hydroptilidae (49 spp.), Hydropsychidae (57 spp.), Leptoceridae (27 spp.), and Philopotamidae (46 spp.). As is commonplace throughout the Neotropics, the known Venezuelan caddisfly fauna undoubtedly represents only a fraction of the true fauna with many undescribed species awaiting discovery and description (e.g., Holzenthal & Cressa 2003, Blahnik 2004).

American Helicopsychidae, or snail case caddisflies, all belong to the genus *Helicopsyche*, and are divided into two subgenera: *Helicopsyche (Feropsyche)* Johanson and *Helicopsyche (Cochliopsyche)* Müller. With 73 described species (Johanson 2002, 2003a), *Feropsyche* is the largest subgenus, while *Cochliopsyche* presently includes 16 species (Johanson 2003b). Adults of the two subgenera are morphologically distinct: in *Cochliopsyche* the antennae are more than twice the length of the forewing and the hind tibiae lack preapical spurs, in *Feropsyche* the antennae are less than twice the length of the forewing and the hind tibiae possess 2 preapical spurs (Johanson (1998). Flint et al. (1999) previously recorded 9 *Helicopsyche (Feropsyche)* from Venezuela: *H. angulata* Flint (known from Colombia, Ecuador, and Venezuela), *H. colombiensis* von Siebold