



A new Gripopterygidae (Plecoptera) species from southern Patagonia

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Abstract

The male, female, and last instar larva of *Andiperlodes tehuelche* n. sp., an apterous species of Gripopterygidae, are described from the Santa Cruz Province, Argentinean Patagonia.

Key words: *Andiperlodes tehuelche*, new species, Gripopterygidae

Introduction

The family Gripopterygidae is represented in South America by 26 genera and 82 species (Stark et al. 2009) and in Patagonia by 22 genera and 48 species (Pessacq 2009). As stated by McLellan & Zwick (2007), the intergeneric relations of the family are not clear, the subfamily concept needs reconstruction and the parameters of the present genera need re-adjusting. Additionally, most genera are delimited by character combinations, without explicit synapomorphies being stated.

At present, three monotypic genera of apterous Gripopterygidae are known, all of them from the southernmost part of Patagonia (Illies 1963): *Andiperla* Aubert, 1956, *Andiperlodes* Illies, 1963 and *Megandiperla* Illies, 1960. These genera also share the absence of ocelli (presumed for unknown males of *Andiperlodes holdgatei* Illies, 1964), and a terrestrial habitat (presumed for males of *A. holdgatei*). Here, a new apterous species from the same region is described.

Materials and methods

Figures were drawn with the aid of a camera lucida coupled to a Leica MZ6 stereomicroscope and a Leica DMLB microscope. All the specimens are deposited in the Museo de La Plata collection (MLP), La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina. Biogeographical areas are according to Morrone (2006).

Larvae and adults were associated based on their extreme similarities and the fact that it was the only Plecoptera species collected in the sampling site. All larvae collected were of the final instar.

Andiperlodes tehuelche Pessacq, sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–4)

Diagnosis: This is the smallest species of Patagonian Gripopterygidae that lack wings. It is distinguished from other Patagonian species by an exceptionally wide pronotum in both adults and in the nymphs and by the lack of an epiproct in the males.