



A new species of *Cypriconcha* Sars (Crustacea: Ostracoda) from high mountain wetlands of Argentina

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Abstract

Cypriconcha hypsophila n. sp. is described and illustrated from high-altitude freshwater bodies within the Argentine province of Catamarca, which represents the first record of this genus in South America. This paper also presents a taxonomical key for identification of all species within the genus. Some comments concerning how this particular species could have spread from the high mountains from the Nearctic region to those of the northwestern Andes are provided.

Key words: Cyprididae, freshwater, morphology, *Cypriconcha* identification key

Introduction

There are seven species within the genus *Cypriconcha* on record in Canada and the USA. *Cypriconcha barbata* (Forbes, 1893) was first found in Yellowstone Park, Wyoming; then in Alberta, Canada; later in the Yellowstone River (Sars 1926); and finally in the shallow waters of the Great Slave Lake, Northwest Territories, Canada (Tressler 1957). *C. macra* Blake, 1931 was recorded in Colorado and Alaska; *C. alba* Dobbin, 1941 was documented in both St. Michaels, Alaska, and the dry Alkali Lake of Washington; *C. ingens* Delorme, 1967 was found in saline lakes in North America; *C. gnathostoma* Ferguson, 1967 was reported in East Playa Lake, Roosevelt County, New Mexico and then collected from the vicinities of Hereford, Texas as well as a lake near Tahoka, Texas; *C. pseudoingens* (Delorme, 1969) was registered in the central region of the interior plains of Canada, particularly Saskatchewan; and *C. steveni* McKenzie, 1982 was reported from San Diego County, California.

The aim of this study is to describe and illustrate a newly discovered species within the genus *Cypriconcha*, inhabiting high mountain wetlands in the Catamarca Province, Argentina. Our report constitutes the first record of this particular genus in South America in general and within the Andean biogeographic region (sensu Morrone 2001) in particular.

Materials and methods

Samples were taken during January 2005 from Laguna Salitre (Antofagasta de la Sierra County), and Vega Los Aparejos (Tinogasta County), Catamarca Province, Argentina (Fig. 1). Laguna Salitre (26° 14' 51" S, 66° 54' 04" W; 4,248 m above sea level) is a little stream of 5 cm depth. The dominating sediments are sands and fine gravels. The surface is covered by floating vegetation and decaying organic matter. In Laguna Salitre the water temperature was 17.0 °C and the conductivity 514 S cm⁻¹. Vega Los Aparejos (27° 40' 56.8" S, 68° 26'