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Octoglena claraqua, n. sp. (Polyzoniida: Hirudisomatidae), a new milliped from Idaho, USA; first record of the order from the western interior of North America

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Abstract

The milliped family Hirudisomatidae (Polyzoniida) comprises two genera in the Western Hemisphere and North America – *Octoglena* Wood, 1864, and *Mexiconium* Shelley, 1996 – and seven species, one being a new species from Idaho, the first hirudisomatid from the western interior, represented solely by an adult male. It is unique in its banded color pattern, recumbent gonopodal orientation *in situ*, upright anterior gonopod podomeres relative to the sternum, and the calyx configuration of the ultimate article. Despite these features, provisional assignment to *Octoglena* is warranted pending more material and review of all familial components under high magnification, preferably SEM. A full description is provided for *O. claraqua*, **n. sp.**, along with a key to familial components in the Western Hemisphere, new locality records, and a distribution map.

Key words: British Columbia, California, Pacific Coast, anterior gonopods, ultimate podomere

Introduction

In the Western Hemisphere, the milliped family Hirudisomatidae occurs exclusively in North America. It was revised by Shelley (1996) and subsequently treated by Hoffman (1999); the former work is dated "December 1995," but the official publication date is actually 16 July 1996 (Poly 2009). Both authors recognized two genera and six species: *Mexiconium* Shelley, 1996, monotypic in Veracruz, Mexico, and *Octoglena* Wood, 1864, comprising five species: *O. gracilipes* (Loomis, 1971), in the interior of the southeastern United States (US), and four species in the Pacific Coastal states and the southwestern corner of "mainland" British Columbia (BC), Canada (excluding Vancouver I. and other offshore islands) – *O. sierra* Shelley, 1996, in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada, Placer County (Co.), California, and *O. bivirgata* Wood, 1864, *O. anura* (Cook, 1904), and *O. prolata* Shelley, 1996, along the Pacific Coast from Vancouver (city), BC, to Santa Cruz Co., California. The family was unknown from the vast North American interior west of the Cumberland Plateau Physiographic Province, extending some 1,815 mi (2,904 km) from northwestern Alabama to Placer Co., until June 2008, when CHR discovered an adult male in the northern Rocky Mountains of the Idaho Panhandle. We here describe *O. claraqua*, **n. sp.**, and present a key to all taxa and short accounts updating distributions and references; we include a detailed account of *Octoglena*, now comprising six species, but otherwise incorporate diagnostic features into the key. Non-taxonomic works addressing the lone Canadian/BC hirudisomatid, *O. anura*, include Shelley (1990, 2002a) and Scudder (1994).

Generic distinctions among New World hirudisomatids are uncertain and will remain so until gonopods of all species are studied under SEM or higher magnification than the 400x available to RMS. By then, perhaps more specimens of *O. claraqua* will be available, as we prefer to base new genera on substantial material rather than single individuals. We therefore accept the taxonomy of Shelley (1996) and conservatively assign

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