Enderleina khazeni n. sp. (Plecoptera, Perlidae), a new stonefly from Venezuelan Guayana

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Abstract

A new species of Enderleina (Plecoptera), E. khazeni n. sp., is described from two males collected in Bolívar Province, Southeast Venezuela. It appears to be more closely related to E. preclara Jewett than to other Enderleina species, but can be clearly distinguished from that species by shape of the penial sclerites. With the description of this new taxon, six species of the genus are known, of these males of four of them have been described.

Key words: Plecoptera, stonefly, Perlidae, Enderleina, new species, Venezuela

Resumen

Se describe una nueva especie del género Enderleina (Plecoptera), E. khazeni n. sp., a partir de dos machos colectados en la provincia de Bolívar, Sudeste de Venezuela. Parece ser más próxima a E. preclara Jewett que a otras especies de Enderleina, pero puede ser claramente distinguida de ésta principalmente por la forma de los escleritos penales. Con la descripción de este nuevo taxón, se conoce un total de seis especies del género, aunque sólo los machos de cuatro de ellas han sido descritos.

Palabras claves: Plecoptera, plecóptero, Perlidae, Enderleina, especie nueva, Venezuela

Introduction

The genus Enderleina Jewett, 1960 presently includes five species of Neotropical Perlidae distributed in Guyana, Venezuela and northern Brazil: E. bonita Stark, 1989, E. flinti Stark, 1989, E. froehlichii Ribeiro-Ferreira, 1996, E. preclara Jewett, 1960, and E. yano Stark, 1989 (Froehlich 2010). Unfortunately, only the males of E. froehlichii, E. preclara and E. yano are known, whereas E. bonita and E. flinti were described from females. Specimens of this genus are rarely collected and even the holotype of E. preclara, the only known specimen, has been apparently lost (Stark et al. 2009).

Herein, we describe a new species of Enderleina collected in the Gran Sabana region in Bolívar Province, Venezuela. The Gran Sabana is located in the Venezuelan part of the Guyana Shield, at the headwaters of the Caroní River (Orinoco River basin). The region is characterized by the peculiar flat-topped table mountains, the tepuis. The region is situated on the quartzite and sandstone of the Precambrian Roraima Group, overlaying the igneous-metamorphic Guyana Shield (Gibbs & Barron 1993). The Gran Sabana is part of an undulated erosion surface and forms an “altiplano” (upland) inclined to the south, with altitudes ranging from about 750 to 1,450 m a. s. l. (Briceño & Schubert 1990). Rivers of the Gran Sabana are typically blackwater, poor in nutrients, with low both pH and conductivity, and usually with a high amounts of dissolved organic compounds leached from decaying vegetation.