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Association of immature stages of some caddisfly species from northwestern Argentina with description of a new species of *Helicopsyche* (Trichoptera: Helicopsychidae)

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Abstract

The adult, larva, and pupa of *Helicopsyche obscura* **sp. nov.** from northwestern Argentina are described and illustrated. Descriptions and illustrations of adults and associated pupae and larvae of *Helicopsyche turbida* Navás and *Leptonema boliviense boliviense* Mosely are included. The associations of immature stages were made using the metamorphotype method. *Helicopsyche turbida* is newly recorded from Tucumán province. The adult males of *H. obscura* **sp. nov.** and *H. turbida* have similar structure in the genital segments, however, the most clear differences are in the general color and size of the adult, and in the color, size, and morphology of the metanota in the larval stages as well as the shapes of mandibles, hook plates, and terminal segments of the pupal stages. The larva and pupa of *L. boliviense boliviense* are compared with those of *L. columbianum* and other previously described species, providing differences in color, chaetotaxy, and morphology.

Key words: Hydropsychidae, *Leptonema*, metamorphotype, new records

Introduction

Holometabolous aquatic insects of the order Trichoptera are considered good indicators for water quality, especially because of their low tolerance to changes in habitat conditions (Ward 1992). Trichoptera larvae are important participants in energy flow and nutrient dynamics in the aquatic environment (Wiggins 2004).

The northwestern Argentinean mountain forest is in an area with subtropical climate, including a dry season in the winter. The area studied in this paper corresponds to the biogeographic province known as Las Yungas or Bosque Tucumano–Boliviano (Cabrera & Willink 1973; Morrone 2001). The Yungas Forest has ecologically important altitudinal variation, ranging from 400 m a.s.l. to 3000 m a.s.l. This is a N-S longitudinal belt that can be recognized from the Andes of Venezuela to the northwestern mountains in Argentina.

The Trichoptera fauna of this area has been studied by several authors (Flint 1983; Flint et al. 1987; Angrisano 1984, 1995; Valverde 1996; Angrisano & Sganga 2005; Rueda Martín 2005a, 2005b, 2006, 2008; Rueda Martín & Gibon 2008; Rueda Martín et al. 2011; Sganga 2006; Sganga & Fontanarrosa 2006; Valverde & Abelando 2006). There are about 112 species of Trichoptera in this Forest from among which only 31 have been associated with their immature stages (Valverde & Abelando 2006; Rueda Martín 2005a, 2005b, 2006; Flint 1974; Rueda Martín 2008, 2011; Angrisano & Sganga 2005; Angrisano 1995; Roback 1966; Marlier 1964; Holzenthal 1988; Smith & Lehmkuhl 1980; Ross 1944; Flint 1982, 1983; Wiggins 1996; Wallace & Merritt 1980; Sganga & Fontanarrosa 2006; Ulmer 1909; Flint 1980; Valverde 1996).

Caddisfly larvae are an important and representative group of benthic macroinvertebrates in the rivers of northwestern Argentina. They are used in ecological studies, mainly as part of a biotic index and as contributors to biodiversity and richness (Mesa & Fernández 2007; Mesa et al. 2008; Fernández et al. 2008). The larval stages of

Pronotum dark brown with short and truncate setae on anterior margin; posterior margin of pronotum black, strongly sclerotized; each pronotal plate bearing semicircular groove and two small dark spots (Fig. 7E). Mesonotum and metanotum with curved setae in anterior margins; surfaces covered with dark setae; muscle scar patterns as in Figs 7 F–G. Prosternum irregular, subtriangular, broader anteriorly with short, broad anteromesal projection; posteriorly rounded, coloration pattern as in Fig. 7K. Chaetotaxy of thoracic legs as in Fig. 7J. Forefemur wider in distal 2/3rds, with pointed dorsal process probably associated with stridulation function. Abdomen with pattern of abdominal gills as in Fig. 8A, lateral line vague. Segment IX with pair of ventral subtriangular plates bearing posterior setae (Fig. 7L). Anal prolegs each with brush of long setae on posterior margin of each lateral plate.

Pupa (Fig. 8). Mean body length: 14 mm (n=3). General color in alcohol yellowish. Mandibles each 2.5 times as long as basal width, curved, pointed, bearing serrated internal margins (Fig. 8B). Abdominal tergites III–VIII bearing anterior dorsal hook plates; abdominal tergite III bearing also posterior pair of hook plates (Fig. 8C). Terminal segment elongate with two digitate projections bearing lateral setae (Fig. 8D).

Biology. Larvae of *L. boliviense boliviense* were collected in rivers with much marginal vegetation. These rivers and springs have stony bottoms and abundant allochthonous organic debris from the riparian vegetation. The larva builds a retreat, with sand and bigger stone pieces between stones in small waterfall areas. In the stomachs of some larvae we found coarse particulate organic matter, mainly pieces of leaves. The second most commonly found items were algae and some arthropod sclerites.

Distribution. Argentina, Bolivia, Peru.

Material examined. ARGENTINA: Jujuy: Camino a Tiraxi, Arroyo Hondo Bajo Puente, 2400'25"S, 06522'9 W, 1700 m, Romero & Molineri cols, 2 larvae (IBN); Río Yala, 20.vi.2009, 7 larvae (IBN); **Salta:** Santa Victoria, Río Los Naranjos, 2225'47"S, 06444'20"W, 1109 m, 13.xi.2004, P. Rueda Martín col., 5 larvae, 1 pupa, 20 males (IBN); Los Toldos, Río Huaico Grande, 2216'44"S, 06442'39"W, 1645 m., 26.x.1999, 3 males (IBN); Río Huaico Grande, 2216'44"S, 06442'39"W, 1645 m, 11.xi.2004, P. Rueda Martín col., 3 pupae, 2 metamorphotype males (IBN); **Tucumán:** Afluente Río Raco, Manantial, 3.iii.2009, 1 larva, 1 metamorphotype male (IBN); Arroyo Calimayo, antes de la papelera, 265533"S, 0652319"W, 493 m, 28.vii.2006, Rueda Martín col., 6 larvae (IBN).

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