

## A distinctive new species of *Xyrodromeus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty (Ephemeroptera: Baetidae) from Madagascar

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### Abstract

The genus *Xyrodromeus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty was established for Afrotropical species of Baetidae (Ephemeroptera) possessing bladelike mandibles. Recently, three new species were described from Madagascar. *Xyrodromeus ambiguus* n. sp. is established for larvae collected in the North and North-East of Madagascar. It possesses most of the generic features of *Xyrodromeus*, but differs significantly from all the previously known species by possessing two rows of denticles on the tarsal claws. This species has an intermediate position between *Xyrodromeus* and *Dicentropilum* Wuillot & Gillies. While it may confirm the strong relationship between the two genera, it also opens the question of their validity and could suggest that all these species belong to a single variable and graded genus.

**Key words:** Ephemeroptera, Baetidae, *Xyrodromeus ambiguus* sp. n., systematics, Madagascar

### Introduction

The genus *Xyrodromeus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty was established for Afrotropical species possessing highly specialised mouthparts for scraping stones (Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1997). This genus now encompasses five species: one in East Africa (the type species *X. africanus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty) and four in Madagascar (Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1997; Gattolliat, 2002). The phylogenetic position remained unclear until the description of the imago and accurate observations on the mouthparts allowed one to recognise affinities with *Afroptilum* Gillies and *Dicentropilum* Wuillot & Gillies (Gattolliat, 2002; McCafferty, 2002).