

A key to Brazilian genera of Plecoptera (Insecta) based on nymphs

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Abstract

An illustrated key is proposed for identification of nymphs of Plecoptera genera reported from Brazil: *Anacroneuria* Klapálek, 1909; *Macrogynoplax* Enderlein, 1909; *Enderleina* Jewett, 1960; *Kempnyia* Klapálek, 1916 (Perlidae), *Tupiperla* Froehlich, 1969; *Paragripopteryx* Enderlein, 1909; *Gripopteryx* Pictet, 1841 and *Guaranyperla* Froehlich, 2001 (Gripopterygidae).

Key words: Plecoptera, nymphs, illustrated key, Aquatic insects, Brazil

Introduction

Plecoptera nymphs are generally found in water courses, especially in the rithral zone. Together with Ephemeroptera and Trichoptera, they are important water-quality indicators.

The order is composed of sixteen families and approximately 2000 species (Zwick, 1974; Romero, 2001). The majority of these families are concentrated in the temperate regions of both hemispheres (Illies, 1965). The distribution of the global fauna was cataloged by Classen (1940), Illies (1966) and Zwick (1973); in North America, Stark *et al.* (1986) and Stark (2001b) recorded 628 species in nine families. About 100 species of Plecoptera are known from Brazil, belonging to two families: Perlidae and Gripopterygidae (Froehlich, 1969, 1984a, b, 2002, 2003; Ribeiro-Ferreira & Froehlich, 1999, 2001).

Species of Perlidae found in South America belong to the tribe Anacroneuriini of the subfamily Acroneuriinae, and are placed in ten genera. In Brazil the following genera are