

Cladocera (Crustacea: Ctenopoda, Anomopoda) from southern Mexico, Belize and northern Guatemala, with some biogeographical notes

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Abstract

Different surveys in the Campechano–Petense biogeographical province, including a part of Yucatan Peninsula, Belize, and North of Guatemala (Departments of Peten and Alta Verapaz), produced a list of 56 species of the Cladocera. Studied water bodies included small temporary pools, sinkholes (named cenotes), permanent lagoons, wetlands, and Peten Lake. We increase the number of known cladoceran species from Mexico by adding eight new records, and provide the first published species list for Belize, as well as for the Mayan Mountains and intermittent rivers from Guatemala. Interesting taxa found are *Diaphanosoma bergamini* Paggi & da Rocha, 1999; *Macrothrix spinosa* King, 1853; *M. elegans* Sars, 1901; *Grimaldina brazzai* Richard, 1892; *Picripleuroxus quasidenticulatus* Smirnov, 1996; *Ephemeroporus tridentatus* (Bergamin, 1939); *Graptoleberis* sp.; *Alona* cf. *ossiani* Sinev, 1998; *Oxyurella ciliata* Bergamin, 1939, and *O. longicaudis* (Birge, 1910). The majority of these species are Neotropical representatives, and the Mexican records are the northernmost. Few other taxa, such as the recently described *Leydigia louisiana mexicana* Kotov, Elías-Gutiérrez & Nieto, 2003, are related to African species or widely distributed, like *Ilyocryptus spinifer* Herrick, 1882. Some species, as *E. tridentatus* (Bergamin) and *O. ciliata* Bergamin were rare in the samples.

Key words: New record, distribution, neotropics, Branchiopoda, freshwater

Introduction

Mexico is actively involved in research on the systematics of the Cladocera (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.*, 1999, 2001; Garfias-Espejo & Elías-Gutiérrez, 2004; Kotov *et al.*, 2004). Not only range extensions have been documented for the cladocerans of this region, but