

Free-living Platyhelminthes of the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve, a Peruvian Amazon floodplain

CAROLINA NOREÑA¹, CRISTINA DAMBORENEA², FRANCISCO BRUSA² & MARIO ESCOBEDO²

¹*Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Evolutiva. Museo Nacional de Ciencias Naturales. José Gutiérrez Abascal, 2. 28006. Madrid. Spain.*

²*CONICET. División Zoología Invertebrados. Facultad de Ciencias Naturales y Museo. UNLP. Paseo del Bosque s/n°. 1900. La Plata. Argentina.*

³*Facultad de Ciencias Biológicas. Universidad de la Amazonia Peruana. Perú*

Abstract

Twenty-one free-living species of turbellaria (Platyhelminthes) were found in the Pacaya-Samiria National Reserve (Loreto, Peru), a Peruvian Amazon floodplain. The total 21 observed taxa comprise five species of Catenulida, two species of Macrostomida, two species of "Lecithoepitheliata", 10 species of Rhabdozoa and two species of Tricladida. Most of the species are cosmopolitan and occur in freshwater habitats worldwide. Of the species collected, only *Mesostoma ehrenbergi* was previously known from this region, whereas five species of Rhabdozoa were only recently described from the Pacaya-Samiria Reserve. Some morphological, distributional and ecological remarks are provided.

Key words: "Turbellaria", Amazon floodplain, free-living Platyhelminthes, distribution, Peru, Pacaya-Samiria Reserve

Introduction

Little is known about the microturbellarians from the Neotropical Region in general and South America in particular. The known microturbellarian fauna comprises 48 species of Catenulida, 9 species of Macrostomida, 2 species of "Lecithoepitheliata", 1 species of Prolecitophora, 4 species of Proseriata, 68 species of Rhabdozoa and 37 species of Tricladida (Kenk, 1974; Kawakatsu & Rovasio, 1992; Moretto, 1996; Damborenea & Cannon, 2001; Amato *et al.*, 2003; Amato & Amato, 2005; Noreña *et al.*, 2003, 2005a, 2005c; Brusa, 2006; Damborenea *et al.*, 2005; Gamo & Leal-Zanchet, 2005; Sluys *et al.*, 2005).