



New species of Hydroptilidae (Trichoptera) from Salto Encantado Provincial Park (Misiones province, Argentina)

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Abstract

Seven new species of Hydroptilidae from Misiones province are described, *Alisotrichia cainguas* new species, *Metrichia pitu* new species, *Ochrotrichia pora* new species, *Paratrichia acuti* new species, *Rhyacopsyche garuape* new species, *Oxyethira tamandua* new species, and *Oxyethira poapi* new species. The genera *Ochrotrichia* Mosely and *Paratrichia* Angrisano are recorded for the first time from Argentina.

Key words: Trichoptera, Hydroptilidae, new species, new records, Argentina, Neotropical

Introduction

Even though Misiones province is known for having a great biodiversity, when periodical sampling is conducted or areas poorly known are studied, new species of Trichoptera are usually found or new records of species are added, showing the poor knowledge of the group. In this work 7 new species of Trichoptera are described from Salto Encantado Provincial Park, out of a total of 71 species that were collected.

The area of Salto Encantado Provincial Park is protected by law 3631 of Misiones province, and constitutes the southern end of the “green corridor”. This is an area with little or no anthropogenic disturbances, which makes it ideal for biodiversity studies. It is closely surrounded by intensely deforested and cultivated areas, offering interesting perspectives for a comparative analysis of the fauna inside and outside the park, and the border effect in the proximity of polluted areas.

Hydroptilidae is one of the most diverse families in the Neotropical region. Currently including 28 genera and 283 species in South America, of which 52 species are recorded from Argentina. When little explored geographical areas are sampled, more new taxa are often found in this family than in others within Trichoptera; it is also the one that presents more taxonomical difficulties, since a lot of genera are poorly defined. Also, the study of hydroptilids is made difficult due to their small size (most species do not exceed 3 mm in length), and the genitalia are complex and difficult to manipulate. Some species are collected in small numbers, having descriptions based on a few or only 1 specimen.

Presently, the family Hydroptilidae is divided into 2 subfamilies, Hydroptilinae and Pticolepinae; the latter not occurring in the Neotropics. According to the classification by Marshall (1979), the subfamily Hydroptilinae is divided into six tribes (Stactobiini, Neotrichiini, Orthotrichiini, Hydroptilini, Leucotrichiini and Ochrotrichiini) all of which are represented in Argentina. The new species herein described belong to the latter three.

The purpose of the present work is to describe 7 new species of Trichoptera from Salto Encantado Provincial Park (Misiones province) collected between the years 2004 and 2008.