



Larval morphology of *Ectemnostega (Ectemnostegella) montana* (Lundblad 1928) (Hemiptera: Heteroptera: Corixidae: Corixinae), with an emphasis on chaetotaxy

SUSANA AMANDA KONOPKO¹ & MARÍA CECILIA MELO^{2,3}

¹Laboratorio de Entomología, Departamento de Biodiversidad y Biología Experimental, Facultad de Ciencias Exactas y Naturales, Universidad de Buenos Aires, CONICET. Av. Int. Güiraldes s/n, Ciudad Universitaria, C1428EHA, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

E-mail: konopko@bg.fcen.uba.ar

²Instituto de Limnología “Dr. R. A. Ringuelet” (ILPLA), CCT- La Plata- CONICET- UNLP, Argentina. E-mail: cecimelo@ilpla.edu.ar

³Corresponding author. E-mail: ceciliamel@fcnym.unlp.edu.ar

Abstract

The genus *Ectemnostega* Enderlein comprises two subgenera, *Ectemnostega* and *Ectemnostegella*. The subgenus *Ectemnostegella* is distributed in the mountainous areas of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Perú. *Ectemnostega (Ectemnostegella) montana* (Lundblad 1928), the type species of the subgenus, presents a wide distribution from Perú and Bolivia to northwestern Argentina in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán, Catamarca, and Córdoba. The egg and all five instars of *E. (E.) montana* are presented for the first time. They are described and illustrated with an emphasis on the morphometry of selected structures and chaetotaxy. The five instars can be separated by means of morphometric relationships and chaetotaxy of the pterothorax, the three pairs of legs, and the abdominal sternites. Comparisons with other species of Corixidae known as larvae are included. The species is recorded from San Luis Province, Argentina, for the first time.

Key words: water boatmen, eggs, larvae, Corixinae, larval morphology, chaetotaxy, morphometry

Introduction

The water boatmen are known to inhabit shallow areas of lotic waters, and temporally stable lentic environments with abundant submerged aquatic macrophytes. The high dispersal potential of this group allows the insects to use many unstable and temporary habitats (Stonedahl & Lattin 1986).

Most corixids are detritivores or microphagous scavengers; some species, however, are largely predaceous and feed on zooplankton, insect larvae, and oligochaetes. They deposit their eggs below the surface of the water, on aquatic plants, stones or woody debris. The eggs of Corixidae have been studied by Poisson (1935), Hungerford (1948a, b), and Cobben (1968).

The genus *Ectemnostega* Enderlein comprises two subgenera: *Ectemnostega*, including only the type species *E. (E.) quadrata* Signoret; and *Ectemnostegella* including ten species. *Ectemnostega (Ectemnostegella)* can be easily distinguished by the presence of several spinules on the ventral region of the profemur, the regular posterior border of the sternite VII of females (not excavated as in the other subgenus), the male protibiae without a carina covering the basal region of tarsus, and the distal half of hemelytra only slightly expanded. This subgenus is distributed in the mountainous areas of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, and Perú, from 1000 to over 4000 m above sea level (Bachmann 1981).

Ectemnostega (E.) montana Lundblad, the type species of the subgenus, presents a wide distribution from Perú and Bolivia to northwestern Argentina in the provinces of Salta, Jujuy, Tucumán, Catamarca, and Córdoba. According to Bachmann (1981), this species shows hemelytral polymorphism; the most common form is the brachypterous.