



The larva of *Perilestes attenuatus* Selys, 1886 (Odonata: Perilestidae) from Amazonas, Brazil

ULISSES GASPAR NEISS¹ & NEUSA HAMADA²

Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia/INPA, Coordenação de Pesquisas em Entomologia/CPEN, Caixa Postal 478, CEP 69011-970, Manaus, AM, Brazil. E-mail: ¹ulisses.neiss@gmail.com; ²nhamada@inpa.gov.br

Abstract

The larva of *Perilestes attenuatus* Selys, 1886 is described and illustrated based on exuviae of reared larvae and last-instar larvae collected in Manaus, Amazonas state, Brazil. The larva of *P. attenuatus* can be distinguished from that of *P. fragilis*, the only other species of which the larva has been described, by the presence of a pair of tubercles on the ligula and by the arrangement of the spines and hooks on the abdominal segments.

Key words: aquatic insects, Damselfly, Insecta, taxonomy, Zygoptera

Resumo

A larva de *Perilestes attenuatus* Selys, 1886 é descrita e ilustrada a partir de exúvias de larvas criadas e de larvas de último estágio coletadas em Manaus, Amazonas, Brasil. A larva de *P. attenuatus* pode ser diferenciada da larva de *P. fragilis*, a única espécie que já possuía a larva descrita, pela presença do par de tubérculos na lígula e pela disposição dos espinhos e ganchos nos segmentos abdominais.

Palavras-chave: insetos aquáticos, Libélula, Insecta, taxonomia, Zygoptera

Introduction

Perilestidae is a small family that occurs predominantly in the Neotropical region, where it is represented by 18 species. The family is also recorded in tropical Africa, where it is represented by a monotypic endemic genus and species: *Nubiolestes diotima* (Schmidt, 1943), restricted to Cameroon (Dijkstra & Vick 2004). In the Neotropical region, Perilestidae ranges from Mexico to southeast Brazil. Eleven species occur in Brazil distributed in two genera: *Perilestes* Hagen in Selys, 1862 (7 spp.) and *Perissolestes* Kennedy, 1941 (4 spp.) (Kennedy 1941; Lencioni 2005). All seven *Perilestes* species occur in the North and Central regions of Brazil, except *P. fragilis* Hagen in Selys, 1862, which occurs only in the Southeast region. This is the only species in the genus for which the larval stage has been described (Santos 1969). The larvae of species in this family are associated with environments with low water velocity, such as pool areas in streams or rivers, where larvae inhabit plant detritus (especially leaves). The adults are difficult to see in the field; they are thin and possess a long and delicate abdomen (40–56 mm), contrasting with the short length of their wings (20–25 mm) (Williamson & Williamson 1924).

As mentioned above, only one species of this genus has had its larva described. Further information on this life stage can be useful for understanding the relationships among species within this family and to support biological and ecological studies on Odonata. Our objective is to describe the larva of *Perilestes attenuatus* Selys, 1886 and to document its occurrence in different municipalities in the state of Amazonas.