



Description of the larva of *Potamophilops cinereus* (Blanchard) from Southeastern Brazil (Coleoptera, Elmidae, Larainae)

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Abstract

Larvae of *Potamophilops cinereus* (Blanchard, 1841) from Brazil, São Paulo, Ribeirão Grande (Fazenda Intervales, Rio Carmo) are described for the first time and illustrated. The larvae were found associated with adults. The larva of *P. cinereus* is most similar to larvae of species of the Mexican and Central American genera *Disersus* Sharp and *Hispaniolara* Brown, but can be easily distinguished chiefly by the head being not visible when seen from above, due to being concealed by the anterior projection of the pronotum. Comparisons of the three genera are presented. Photographs of the adult habitus of *P. cinereus* are also furnished. A key to the larvae of the genera of Larainae of Brazil is included.

Key words: aquatic beetles, identification key, larva, morphology, Neotropical Region

Introduction

Dr. Claudio G. Froehlich (Faculdade de Filosofia, Ciências e Letras de Ribeirão Preto, Universidade de São Paulo) sent a sample of aquatic beetles to be deposited in the collection of the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo. The specimens were obtained during Dr. Froehlich's researches on benthic insects, and were collected in rivers and waterfalls in the county of Ribeirão Grande, State of São Paulo. While examining the material collected in Rio Carmo, we discovered two larvae found in the river rocky substrate and some adults attracted by light trap. The study of those specimens revealed that the larvae and adults are conspecific and belong to the larvae *Potamophilops cinereus* (Blanchard, 1841).

According to Passos *et al.* (2007), three genera of Larainae (*Hexanchorus* Sharp, 1882, *Phanocerus* Sharp, 1882 and *Potamophilops* Grouvelle, 1896) and five species are recorded from Brazil. The genus *Potamophilops* was revised by Spangler & Santiago-Fragoso (1987) and comprises a single included species, *P. cinereus*, known from Argentina and Brazil (Figs. 1–2). Brown (1987) made reference to *Potamophilops* larvae, but the larva remains undescribed up to now (Manzo, 2005; Passos *et al.*, 2007), so we have decided to present a detailed description herein.

Material and methods

Material examined. The following data are given: country, state (bold), county (italic), name of place and river, date and collectors. All specimens are deposited in the collection of the Museu de Zoologia, Universidade de São Paulo (MZSP).

Methods. The larva was dissected in water, under the stereomicroscope. Temporary slides were produced using Hoyer's medium. Some drawings were prepared with help of a camera lucida adapted to a binocular microscope, Zeiss Standard WL, while others were done with the help of pictures taken using a Zeiss Microscope Axionskop 2 coupled to a computer and with a SEM Zeiss LEO 440. Adult and larva pictures were taken in a Stereomicroscope Leica M125 with coupled Magnifier in DV camera Leica DFC.