



The larva of *Palaemnema mutans* Calvert, 1931 (Odonata: Platystictidae)

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Abstract

The larva of *Palaemnema mutans* is described, illustrated, and compared with larvae of the genus described to date. *P. mutans* differs from the other species in having a shorter body length, a larger number of teeth in the internal molar lobe of the left mandible and shorter caudal lamellae, as well as an apical filament proportionally longer than in any other species. The hypopharynx is described for the first time for the genus. This is the first record of *P. mutans* for Colombia.

Key words: Description, Zygoptera, *Palaemnema mutans*, Anchicayá, Colombia

Resumen

Se describe e ilustra a la larva de *Palaemnema mutans* y se la compara con las larvas de las demás especies del género descritas a la fecha. *P. mutans* se diferencia de las otras especies por tener una menor longitud corporal total, mayor número de dentículos en el lóbulo molar interno de la mandíbula izquierda y lamelas caudales más cortas, con el filamento apical proporcionalmente más largo. Se describe por primera vez la hipofaringe para el género. Este es el primer registro de *P. mutans* para Colombia.

Palabras clave: Descripción, Zygoptera, *Palaemnema mutans*, Anchicayá, Colombia

Introduction

The genus *Palaemnema* is the only New World representative of the family Platystictidae (Donnelly 1992). It contains 43 species known to date (Garrison *et al.* 2010), of which only four larvae have been described: *P. desiderata* Selys, *P. paulitoyaca* Calvert (Novelo-Gutiérrez & González-Soriano 1986); *P. domina* Calvert (Novelo-Gutiérrez 2003), and *P. clementia* Selys (De Marmels 2007). Westfall & May (1996) provided illustrations of an immature specimen of *P. paucicoba* Calvert. Donnelly (1992) emphasized the recognizable morphological differences between the adults of northern and southern species described, and established that the Colombian odonatofauna is essentially unknown. Here we describe the larva of *P. mutans* Calvert based upon reared material collected in the Anchicayá zone, Valle del Cauca, Colombia, as an effort to increase the knowledge of Platystictidae in this country. At the same time, this represents the first Colombian record of *P. mutans*, previously known from Panama and Venezuela.

Palaemnema mutans Calvert

Figs. 1–9

Material. One exuvia (1 ♂, reared), 22 F0 larvae (11 ♂, 11 ♀). COLOMBIA: Alto Anchicayá, Quebrada Acueducto (528 masl), 03.57025° N, 076.87815° W, 2-II-2009, (1 ♀); 3-II-2009, (2 ♀ 1 ♂); 29-I-2010, (2 ♂, 1 emerged