



Description of the final stadium larva of *Telebasis obsoleta* (Selys, 1876) (Odonata: Coenagrionidae)

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Abstract

The final stadium larvae of *Telebasis obsoleta* is described and illustrated based on one reared specimen from Argentina. Notes on habitat and new provincial records of Odonata are also provided. The larva of *Telebasis obsoleta* has five palpal setae, a feature shared only with the larva of *T. demerara*. All other known *Telebasis* species have six or seven palpal setae. *Telebasis obsoleta* and *T. demerara* can be distinguished by the presence of two small denticles near the tip of the prementum in *T. obsoleta*, and by the color pattern of the distal half of the caudal lamellae.

Key words:

Resumen

Se describe e ilustra el último estadio larval de *Telebasis obsoleta* sobre la base de un ejemplar de Argentina criado hasta su emergencia. Se proveen además notas sobre el hábitat y nuevos registros provinciales de Odonata. La larva de *Telebasis obsoleta* posee cinco setas en el palpo labial, característica que comparte únicamente con la larva de *T. demerara*. Todas las restantes larvas de *Telebasis* conocidas hasta el momento poseen seis o siete setas en el palpo. *Telebasis obsoleta* y *T. demerara* pueden diferenciarse por la presencia de dos pequeños dentículos cerca del extremo distal del prementón de *T. obsoleta* y por el patrón de coloración de la mitad distal de las laminillas caudales.

Introduction

Telebasis Selys is, after *Argia* Rambur, the second-most speciose genus of New World Coenagrionidae. It comprises 58 species distributed from the southern United States to central Argentina (Garrison *et al.* 2010). Despite being common inhabitants of lentic waters, the final instar larva of only eight species (14% of the total) has been thoroughly described: *T. boomsmae* Garrison, *T. byersi* Westfall, *T. demerara* (Williamson), *T. digiticollis* Calvert, *T. salva* (Hagen), *T. simulata* Tennessen, *T. vulnerata* (Hagen), and *T. willinki* Fraser (Needham 1904, García Díaz 1938, Geijskes 1941, 1943, Westfall 1957, Bulla 1970, Garrison 1994, Novelo Gutiérrez & Gómez Anaya 2005). Westfall & May (2006) keyed the larvae known for the United States, including those of *T. corallina* (Selys), *T. dominicana* (Selys), and *T. filiola* (Perty); however, none of these was formally described.

In Argentina, eight species of *Telebasis* have been recorded: *T. carmesina* Calvert, *T. carminita* Calvert, *T. griffinii* (Martin), *T. inalata* (Calvert), *T. obsoleta* (Selys), *T. simulacrum* (Calvert), *T. theodori* (Navás), and *T. willinki* Fraser (von Ellenrieder & Muzón 2008); only the larva of *T. willinki* has been described to date.

Telebasis obsoleta was originally described by Selys (1876) under the genus *Leptagrion*. Calvert (1909) described *Acanthagrion chirihuanum*, which was later transferred to *Helveciagrion* by Machado (1980). Lencioni (2006) considered that *L. obsoletum* belonged to the genus *Helveciagrion* and synonymized *H. chirihuanum* with *H. obsoletum*. Recently, Garrison (2009), in his synopsis of the genus *Telebasis*, considered *Helveciagrion* a junior