



Article

A new species of *Oecetis* McLachlan, 1877 (Trichoptera: Leptoceridae) from Southeast Brazil: Validation of an unpublished species

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Abstract

Oecetis McLachlan is the most speciose genus within the Leptoceridae Leach, 1815. It contains more than 400 species distributed all over the world except Antarctica. The genus is easily recognized by its apparently unbranched M vein in the forewings, a character that McLachlan used to differentiate this genus from *Setodes*. Milne divided the genus into four subgenera, *Quaria* being one of them. The males of this subgenus are recognized by their prominent dorsolateral processes from abdominal segment IX in lateral view. Chen, in his unpublished PhD thesis, recovered this subgenus and erected three others based on a phylogenetic analysis. Herein we describe a new species collected in Southeast Brazil based on male specimens. This species was described by Chen but not published. The new species is recognized by its dorsolateral process on segment IX being slender, curved ventrad, and with the same length as the phallic apparatus, and by its inferior appendages each with its distal lobe cylindrical.

Key words: adults, caddisflies, ICZN, Neotropical, taxonomy

Introduction

Oecetis McLachlan, 1877, is the most speciose genus within the Leptoceridae Leach, 1815. It includes more than 400 species distributed all over the world except Antarctica (Holzenthall *et al.*, 2007). These caddisflies are frequently found in lentic and lotic habitats (Wiggins, 1996) and even in arid lands in Australia (Wells, 2004). The larvae are characterized by their long and sharp mandibles, which identify them as predators, and also long maxillary palps (Wiggins, 1996).

The genus was first recognized by McLachlan, who separated it from *Setodes* using as a diagnostic character the apparently unbranched M vein in the forewings. He did not established a type species, but Ross (1944) subsequently selected *O. ochracea* Curtis, 1825.

Milne (1934) divided *Oecetis* into 4 subgenera: *Quaria*, *Friga*, *Yrulea* and *Oecetodes*, based on the shape and length of the inferior appendages. He established *O. scala* Milne, 1934, as the type species for subgenus *Quaria* Milne, 1934. From the four subgenera erected by Milne, Chen (1993) recovered only *Quaria* in his unpublished thesis based on two synapomorphies: dorsal internal part of female gonopod VIII fused with its spermathecal sclerite and a dorsolateral projection of male segment IX prominent in lateral view. Also, he proposed three other subgenera: *Pseudosetodes*, *Oecetis* and *Pleurograpta*.

There are 34 species of *Oecetis* recorded in the Neotropical Region. Among the eight species of *Oecetis* reported for Brazil by Flint *et al.* (1999), Blahnik *et al.* (2004) and Dumas *et al.* (2010), only two of them (*O. paranensis* Flint, 1982, and *O. rafaeli* Flint, 1991) belong to subgenus *Quaria*.

Herein we describe one new species from Southeast Brazil, based on male specimens, with notes on its distribution and taxonomy. This species was described and illustrated by Chen (1993) but not published. We use the species epithet Chen proposed in order to avoid the invalidation of the name (ICZN, 1999, Recommendation 51E) and to recognize his work on *Oecetis*.