



The presence of species of *Pseudochironomus* Malloch 1915 (Diptera: Chironomidae) in watercourses of Chaco Serrano Ecoregion (Argentina, South America)

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Abstract

Male imagos of *Pseudochironomus viridis* (Kieffer) are redescribed, the immature stages are described and figured for the first time. During this study, larva and pupal exuviae associated to *P. richardsoni* (Malloch) were recorded for the first time for South America. The specimens were collected from a stream and a river in the Pampasic Hills System in the Chaco Serrano ecoregion of Argentina.

Key words: *Pseudochironomus*, redescription, first record, Chaco Serrano, Argentina, Neotropical Region

Introduction

The Genus *Pseudochironomus* (Malloch) has a wide distribution in North America, 13 species presently described (Sæther 1977). Two of the three species of *Pseudochironomus* described by Edwards (1931) for Argentina and southern Chile currently belong to the genus *Riethia* Kieffer, 1917 of Gondwanan distribution. *Pseudochironomus* is represented in South America only by *P. viridis* Kieffer (1925) for the Alta Gracia locality in the Province of Córdoba, Argentina. Roback (1960) in his Catherwood Expedition also recorded and redescribed the male and female imagos from Peru.

The aim of this work was to extend the description of the adult male and describe for the first time the pupae and larvae of *P. viridis* from samples collected in the province of Catamarca and San Luis, Argentina.

During the analysis of this material pupal and larval associated exuviae of *P. richardsoni* (Malloch) were also found, being the first record of the species for South America.

Material and methods

Larvae, pupae with pharate imagos were obtained from driftnets and surber samplers and male adults were collected with light trap. The material was preserved in ethanol 80 % cleared in 10% KOH and slide-mounted in Canada balsam and Euparal for microscopic observation. General terminology and abbreviations follow Sæther (1980). Total and wing lengths are given in mm, other measurements in µm; the measurements are given as range, followed by mean, and the number of specimens in parenthesis. The coloring of the figures follow Gilka (2008).

Material examined was deposited at the La Plata Museum of Natural Science (MLP), La Plata, Argentina and at the Institute of Limnology “Dr. R. A. Ringuelet” (ILPLA), La Plata, Argentina.