

A new species of freshwater leech of the genus *Haementeria* (Annelida: Glossiphoniidae) from Jalisco State, Mexico

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Abstract

Haementeria lopezi n. sp. is described based on the examination of 11 specimens collected in northern Jalisco state, Mexico. Leeches were found feeding on blood of *Bufo marinus* (Bufonidae) and *Smilisca baudinii* (Hylidae). Diagnostic characters are: undivided annuli and absence of conspicuous papillae on dorsal surface. Specimens measure 22–59 mm length and 6–9 mm wide.

Key words: Annelida, Hirudinea, Glossiphoniidae, *Haementeria*, Mexico

Introduction

Glossiphoniidae is a diverse family of freshwater leeches, with representatives found in all continents except Antarctica. This group is comprised principally of dorsoventrally flattened leeches normally found feeding on the blood of turtles and amphibians, although some species, such as those in *Glossiphonia*, feed on the haemolymph of aquatic oligochaetes and snails (Siddall *et al.* 2005). The genus *Haementeria* is comprised of approximately ten species of leeches haematophagous on vertebrates distributed exclusively in the New World, with the highest diversity of species in South America. Only one representative is found in North America: *Haementeria officinalis* De Filippi, 1849 from Mexico (Ringuet 1985; Sawyer 1986). A complicated salivary gland complex occurs in the members of *Haementeria*. Ringuet (1976) recorded one or two pairs of compact salivary glands, depending on the species, connecting into the base of the proboscis, and two pairs of lateral mycetomes or spheroidal salivary glands, each lateral pair united to the oesophagus via a common ductule. Recent phylogenetic studies (Light & Siddall 1999; Siddall *et al.* 2005) suggest the monophyly of the genus and its sister taxon relationship with the genus *Helobdella*. The presence of two pairs of mycetomes is considered a synapomorphy for the genus.