



Description of the larva of *Aeshna persephone* Donnelly, 1961 (Odonata: Aeshnidae)

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Abstract

The last instar larva of *Aeshna persephone* is described and compared to the other *Aeshna* species inhabiting Mexico and the southwestern United States. A key is provided to separate *A. persephone* from the six other sympatric species of *Aeshna*. Larvae inhabit roots of riparian herbaceous vegetation in open streams with boulders.

Key words: *Aeshna persephone*, larva, description, Anisoptera, Mexico, southwestern United States

Resumen

Se describe el último estadio larval de *Aeshna persephone* y se compara con las otras especies de *Aeshna* que habitan en México y en el suroeste de Estados Unidos. Se proporciona una clave para separar a *A. persephone* de las otras seis especies simpátricas de *Aeshna*. Las larvas habitan entre las raíces de la vegetación herbácea riparia, en arroyos abiertos con grandes rocas.

Palabras clave: *Aeshna persephone*, larva, descripción, Anisoptera, México, suroeste de Estados Unidos

Introduction

Six species of *Aeshna* have been found to be sympatric or nearly sympatric with *Aeshna persephone* Donnelly (Donnelly 2004, González-Soriano & Novelo-Gutiérrez 2007). The larvae of all of these species are known: *A. constricta* Say (Walker 1958), *A. interrupta interna* Walker (Musser 1962), *A. palmata* Hagen (Musser 1962), *A. umbrosa occidentalis* Walker (Musser 1962), *A. walkeri* Kennedy (Kennedy 1917), and *A. williamsoniana* Calvert (Novelo-Gutiérrez 2007). The following description and diagnosis of the last instar larva of *A. persephone* is based on 15 specimens from Arizona and Mexico.

Aeshna persephone Donnelly

Figs. 1–10

Material.—Six exuviae (2 ♂ + 2 ♀ reared), nine larvae. MEXICO, Estado de México; Municipality of Tejupilco, road 134 Temascaltepec-Tejupilco, Río Chilero, N18° 58' 58"; W100° 03' 54", elevation 1643 m, pine-oak forest, 19–IX–2009, 1 ♀ (emerged 28–IX–2009), R. Novelo leg; deposited at Colección Entomológica del Instituto de Ecología, A.C. (IEXA), Xalapa; USA, ARIZONA, Cochise County, Southwest Research Station, 5 mi. W of Portal, 1 larva, VII–1956, 1 ♂ (“emerged at Gainesville”, no date), VII–1958, M. J. Westfall, Jr. leg.; Cochise County, Scotia Canyon, Huachuca Mountains, 18–IX–2002, 1 ♀ exuvia, S.