



The Family Baetidae (Insecta: Ephemeroptera) from Venezuelan Guayana's Uplands

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Abstract

The family Baetidae is still poorly known from Venezuela, particularly in the South of this country. Three field trips were carried out in La Gran Sabana region (Bolívar State). As a result of these trips, four genera (*Cryptonympha*, *Harpagobaetis*, *Spiritiops* and *Zelusia*) and nine species are reported for the first time from this region. A discussion of each taxon is included as well as drawings when it is necessary. Keys with all known genera of Baetidae and all known species of *Camelobaetidius* from Venezuela are included too. With this analysis, the number of the genera and species reported is duplicated improving the knowledge of this family from this country.

Key words: Baetidae, Venezuela, *Cryptonympha*, *Harpagobaetis*, *Spiritiops*, *Zelusia*

Resumen

La familia Baetidae es poco conocida en Venezuela, particularmente en el sur del país. Tres viajes fueron realizados en la región de La Gran Sabana (Estado Bolívar). Como resultado de estos viajes, cuatro géneros (*Cryptonympha*, *Harpagobaetis*, *Spiritiops* y *Zelusia*) y nueve especies son reportadas por primera vez para esta región. Una discusión para cada taxón es incluida, así como también dibujos cuando es necesario. Son incluidas también para Venezuela, una clave para todos los géneros de Baetidae y otra clave para todas las especies de *Camelobaetidius*. Con este trabajo, el número de géneros y especies reportadas se duplica mejorando el conocimiento de la familia para este país.

Palabras claves: Baetidae, Venezuela, *Cryptonympha*, *Harpagobaetis*, *Spiritiops*, *Zelusia*

Introduction

The knowledge of Ephemeroptera, and especially the family Baetidae, is still poor in Venezuela. Particularly, little work has been done on the Ephemeroptera fauna from Guyana Shield region, in southern Venezuela, where a very high endemism is expected (Domínguez *et al.* 2006), because this area is one of the largest biodiversity and endemism reserves in the world (Huber 1995). In 2003, Segnini *et al.* reported for Venezuela six species of Baetidae, belonging to three genera, five of them known from adults and one from nymph. In 2009, Chacón *et al.* reported the same species although some of them have changed its taxonomic status. Finally, Chacón *et al.* (2010) described a new species of *Prebaetodes* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, reporting for the first time this genus from this country. This work is the result of three field trips carried out in La Gran Sabana region (Bolívar State), an undulating elevated plateau (750–1450 m), grass-dominated, localized in the Canaima National Park, in southern Venezuela. Two trips were carried out at the end and the beginning of the rainy season, in November 2005 and June 2007, respectively. One more trip was made during the dry season in March 2006.