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First records of *Ungla* Navás (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae) from Venezuela, with descriptions of seven new species

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“I dedicate this article to the memory of Dr. Maurice J. Tauber (1931–2014), Professor Emeritus of Cornell University. I will always be grateful for his enthusiastic encouragement and collaboration.”

Abstract

Ungla Navás is a small and relatively unstudied genus of Neotropical Chrysopini (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae: Chrysopinae) from Central and South America. Here, the genus is reported from Venezuela for the first time, and seven new species are described: *Ungla demarmelsi* sp. nov.; *Ungla diazi* sp. nov.; *Ungla curimaguensis* sp. nov.; *Ungla martinsi* sp. nov.; *Ungla nigromaculifrons* sp. nov.; *Ungla rubricosa* sp. nov.; and *Ungla yutajensis* sp. nov.

Key words: Chrysopini, green lacewing, distribution records

Resumen

Ungla Navás es un pequeño y poco estudiado género de Chrysopini (Neuroptera: Chrysopidae: Chrysopinae) de Centro y Sur América. Aquí, *Ungla* es reportado para Venezuela por primera vez y se describen siete nuevas especies: *Ungla demarmelsi* sp. nov.; *Ungla diazi* sp. nov.; *Ungla curimaguensis* sp. nov.; *Ungla martinsi* sp. nov.; *Ungla nigromaculifrons* sp. nov.; *Ungla rubricosa* sp. nov.; and *Ungla yutajensis* sp. nov.

Introduction

The Neotropical genus *Ungla* Navás, 1914 is a long-neglected, but frequently encountered and well differentiated taxon in the green lacewing tribe Chrysopini (subfamily Chrysopinae). Some species have been reported from agricultural crops, but little is known about their biology (Penny 1998, Freitas 2003, Monserrat & Freitas 2005, Reguilón 2010).

Externally, the adults resemble those of *Pseudomallada* or some *Chrysopodes* (*Chrysopodes*) species. However, the male abdomen and genitalia of *Ungla* species express some highly distinctive features. That is, the fused ninth tergite + ectoproct is rounded and dome-like apicodorsally, and it lacks an apodeme that extends at all below T8. In addition, sternites 8+9 are fused, elongate, and scoop-like, and the gonarc complex consists of an arcuate gonarcus, elongate, slender arcessus, and large gonosaccus bearing clusters of elongate setae extending from large chalazae. *Ungla* females are more difficult to distinguish from other chrysopine genera; they typically have a pillbox-shaped spermatheca, with a relatively long velum, and elongate duct. Some external characteristics have been proposed as characteristic of *Ungla*; for example, males were considered to be without crassate veins, and the basal inner gradate was described as not meeting the Pseudomedia (Psm) (Brooks & Barnard 1990). However, Tauber & Flint (2010) demonstrated that the last character can be variable within *Ungla*, and the new species described here demonstrate that some *Ungla* species have crassate veins.

Currently, the genus *Ungla* contains nine species: one recorded from Costa Rica [*U. pallescens* Penny, 1998], three from Colombia [*U. laufferi* (Navás, 1921), *U. favrei* (Navás, 1935), and *U. nesotala* (Banks, 1944)], one from Brazil [*U. ivancruzi* Freitas, 2003], and four from Argentina [*U. argentina* (Navás, 1911), *U. confraterna* (Banks,