

The genus *Potamobates* Champion in Ecuador, with description of *P. shuar* n. sp. (Hemiptera: Gerridae)

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Abstract

Potamobates horvathi Esaki and *P. anchicaya* Polhemus & Polhemus are reported for Ecuador for the first time. *P. shuar* n. sp. is described from southern Ecuadorean Amazonas. Male and female genitalia separate *P. shuar* from other congeneric species. Five species of *Potamobates* occur in Ecuador: *P. anchicaya*, *P. horvathi*, *P. shuar* n. sp., *P. sumaco* Cognato, and *P. williamsi* Hungerford. Finally, comments on the phylogeny of the genus are given.

Key words: morphology, habitats, species groups, cladistics

Introduction

The genus *Potamobates* Champion (Gerridae: Cyndrostethinae) is strictly Neotropical, distributed from Mexico to Peru (Polhemus & Polhemus, 1995). Polhemus & Polhemus (1995) listed 15 species and reconstructed their phylogenetic relationships based on a parsimony analysis of 10 morphological characters. The results of the analysis were three cladograms with length of 47, consistency index 53, and retention index 52. Later, Cognato (1998) described *P. sumaco* from Ecuador and the genetic diversity of this species and its congener *P. williamsi* Hungerford was studied by Galacatos *et al.* (2002). The fauna of Ecuador therefore currently comprises only these two species, but recent collecting in the Ecuadorean Oriente and coastal forests resulted in two new records of known species for Ecuador, *P. horvathi* Esaki, 1926 and *P. anchicaya* J. Polhemus & D. Polhemus, 1995, as well as a previously undescribed species to be described here. All measurements were taken on the middle of the specimen with a micrometric ocular on a stereomicroscope and are in mm. The following abbreviations are used for collections: FMB (Filippo Maria Buzzetti private collection, Arzignano, Italy), ZMUC (Zoological Museum of University of Copenhagen, Denmark) and PUCE (Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador, Quito).