

## The larvae of *Amarodytes duponti* (Aubé) (Coleoptera: Dytiscidae: Hydroporinae), with comments on Bidessini larval morphology and chaetotaxy

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### Abstract

Larval morphology of the Neotropical endemic dytiscid genus *Amarodytes* Régimbart is investigated. All three larval instars of *A. duponti* (Aubé) are described and illustrated with particular emphasis on morphometry and chaetotaxy. Larvae of *A. duponti* share with those of other Bidessini studied in detail the absence of the primary pore ABc. Contrary to other first instar Bidessini, *A. duponti* characterizes by the presence of an occipital suture and the absence of pores PAj and PAK. *Amarodytes duponti* is related to *Allodessus bistrigatus* (Clark) by the presence of secondary setae on the first urogomphomere, a unique feature among the Bidessini.

**Key words:** Diving beetles, Bidessini, *Amarodytes*, larval morphology, chaetotaxy

### Introduction

The dytiscid tribe Bidessini is a speciose group of beetles consisting of 43 genera and ca. 600 species (Nilsson 2001, 2003, 2004; Watts & Humphreys 2006). In spite of its great diversity, larval morphology of members of the Bidessini still remains among the most imperfectly known within the Dytiscidae. At the moment, the larvae of only 11 genera (26%) (14 species) have been described, most of them very superficially (Bertrand 1930; Meuche 1937; Watts 1963, 1970; Perkins 1980; Richoux 1982; Matta 1983; Nilsson 1985; Costa *et al.* 1988; Alarie & Wewalka 2001). The lack of detail in existing descriptions is largely due to the small size of these insects, which adults vary from 1.20 to 3.50 mm in length (Alarie & Wewalka 2001).

The present study focuses on the larvae of the Neotropical endemic *Amarodytes* Régimbart, a small genus including 10 species (Nilsson 2001). The placement of