



## A new Peruvian land planarian species of the genus *Gigantea* (Platyhelminthes, Tricladida, Geoplanidae)

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### Abstract

A new species of Geoplaninae land planarian from south Peru, *Gigantea urubambensis* **sp. nov.**, is described. The most outstanding features of the new species are the very dorsal location of the testes, between the dorsal diagonal and the supra-intestinal parenchymatic muscle layers; a penis papilla projecting from the roof of the male atrium and acentrally traversed by the ejaculatory duct; and the absence of glandular ridges on the penis papilla.

**Key words:** Flatworm, terrestrial fauna, Continenticola, Neotropical Region, Peru, very dorsal testes

### Introduction

In South America, Peru has the second highest number of land planarian species, with 33 species. Twenty-nine of these species belong to the Geoplaninae (two species of *Amaga* Ogren & Kawakatsu, 1990, twenty of *Geoplana* Schultze & Müller, 1857, two of *Gigantea* Ogren & Kawakatsu, 1990, one of *Notogynaphallia* Ogren & Kawakatsu, 1990, two of *Pasipha* Ogren & Kawakatsu, 1990, and two of *Pseudogeoplana* Ogren & Kawakatsu, 1990), two species to the Microplaninae (*Incapora* du Bois-Reymond Marcus, 1953 and *Microplana* Vejdovsky, 1889), one species to the Rhynchodeminae (*Dolichoplana* Moseley, 1877), in addition to the cosmopolitan species *Bipalium kewense* Moseley, 1878 (Bipaliinae). Most of these records date back to the mid-twentieth century (Meixner 1906; Beauchamp 1939; du Bois-Reymond Marcus 1951, 1953, 1957, 1958; Hyman 1955), and no new species of Peruvian terrestrial planarians have been described since then.

*Gigantea* comprises twelve species represented in Colombia, Costa Rica, Panama, Trinidad & Tobago, and Peru. The two known Peruvian species of the genus, *Gigantea idaia* (du Bois-Reymond Marcus, 1951) and *G. unicolor* (Hyman, 1955), were described from the proximities of Cusco at 4000 masl and northwest of Peru at 2100 masl, respectively.

In the present paper we describe a new land planarian species of the genus *Gigantea* from the Urubamba river basin, Peru.

### Material and methods

The single specimen was collected in July 2007, near Camisea (11° 51' S; 72° 56' W) at 400 masl, department of Cusco, in the Lower Urubamba Region (LUR), east of the Andes Mountains, southern Peru. The area derives its name from the Lower Urubamba River, which forms the primary drainage basin in the region (Alonso *et al.* 2001). The LUR comprises approximately 600 km<sup>2</sup> of tropical rainforest that enclose some