



A new species of the genus *Aeschnosoma* Selys, 1870 (Odonata: Anisoptera: Corduliidae s.s.)

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Abstract

The larva, the adult male and the adult female of *Aeschnosoma hamadae* **sp. nov.** are described and illustrated. This species belongs to the *A. elegans* group of species. A comparison with other species of this group is given.

Key words: *Aeschnosoma hamadae*, *Aeschnosoma elegans*, *Aeschnosoma marizae*, Amazonia, Brazil, dragonfly

Introduction

Some unknown larvae of the genus *Aeschnosoma* were collected in typical blackwater streams of the Amazon lowland undisturbed primary forest (Fig. 1a). Their somewhat complex rearing in the laboratory led to the discovery of a new species closely related to *A. elegans* Selys, 1870, and *A. marizae* Santos, 1981. The larvae, mainly hidden in submerged tree roots (Fig. 1b), were always found in relative abundance during three years of regular collecting. The adults, contrary to the larvae, were almost never seen, and only one adult female was ever captured in spite of the effort of collecting and sampling. Two further corduliid adults, possibly belonging to this species, were seen for a few seconds in stationary flight 40–50 cm above the water surface. As with many other forest species, the extreme scarcity of the adult is misleading (Fleck, unpublished), and this species, like many others, should currently not be considered as rare.

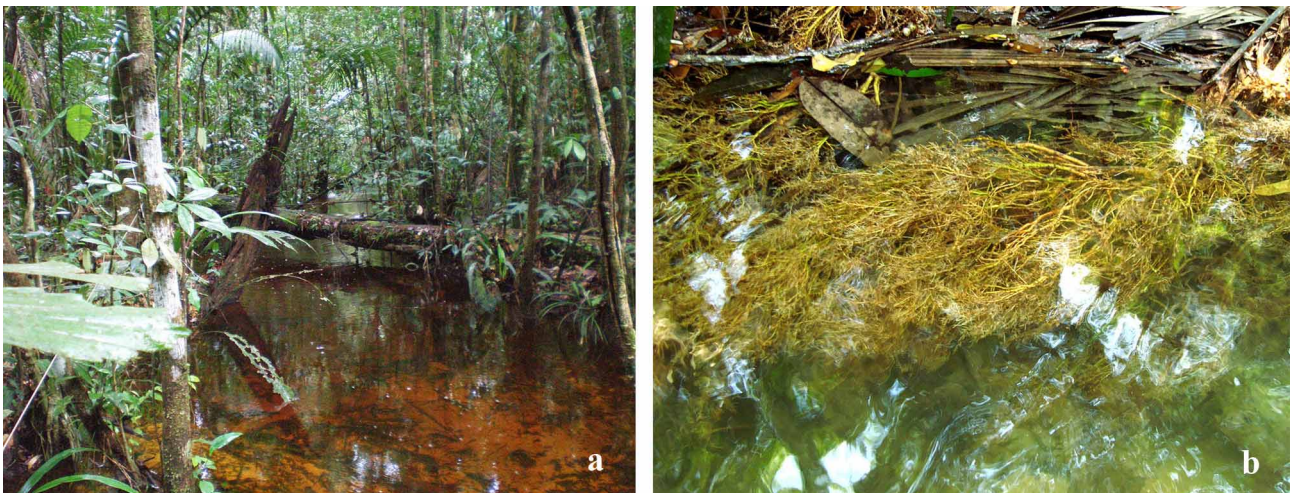


FIGURE 1. General view of type locality at Sítio Fênix, Presidente Figueiredo, Amazonas, Brazil: a) typical blackwater streams; b) detail of submerged tree roots where larvae hide.