Zootaxa 3616 (1): 022–030
www.mapress.com/zootaxa/

Article

ISSN 1175-5326 (print edition)
ZOOTAXA
ISSN 1175-5334 (online edition)

http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.3616.1.2
http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:D6C401BC-FCE0-44AC-947E-DAED07F2D3C9

Preimaginal stages of *Triplectides misionensis* Holzenthal and *Triplectides gracilis* (Burmeister) (Trichoptera: Leptoceridae: Triplectidinae), with notes on the cases occupied by these species

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Abstract

The larvae, pupae and cases of *Triplectides misionensis* Holzenthal and *T. gracilis* (Burmeister) are described from specimens collected in protected areas from northeastern Argentina. The larvae are easily differentiated by the coloration of the cephalic capsule, shape of the ventral apotome and submentum, anterior border of the pronotum, and coloration of the legs, among other characters, while the pupae can be recognized by the chaetotaxy of the head. The larvae occupy empty cases of *Grumicha grumicha* Valot and *Nectopsyche gemma* (Müller), as well as hollow twigs. *Triplectides misionensis* is found almost exclusively in cases of *G. grumicha* while *T. gracilis* prefers twigs of different sizes.

Key words: larva, pupa, larval cases, Neotropics

Introduction

The genus *Triplectides* Kolenati 1859 contains about 70 species worldwide, being the most speciose genus in the subfamily Triplectidinae. It is also the most widespread genus, with species distributed mainly in the Southern Hemisphere and with the highest diversity recorded in the Oceanian Region (Holzenthal 1988, Malm & Johanson 2008). In the Neotropics, 14 species have been recorded from southern Mexico to Patagonia (Flint *et al.* 1999, Dumas & Nessimian 2010). The immature stages of only 2 of these Neotropical species are known: *T. egleri* Sattler 1963, and *T. jaffueli* Navás 1918 (Flint *et al.* 1999).

The larvae of *Triplectides* are found in very diverse habitats including cold and warm, unpolluted to moderately polluted, permanent and temporary lentic and lotic systems (Morse & Neboiss 1982). They build tubular cases from various plant or mineral materials, or entirely from silk, while some species use hollowed-out twigs or empty cases of other caddisflies (Holzenthal 1988, Flint *et al.et al.* 1999, Crisci-Bispo *et al.* 2004).

In this paper the larvae and pupae of *T. misionensis* Holzenthal 1988 and *T. gracilis* (Burmeister 1839) are described and illustrated and information about their cases is provided. In particular the occurrence of larvae of both species in cases of *Grumicha grumicha* Vallot 1855 (Trichoptera: Sericostomatidae) and *Nectopsyche gemma* (Müller 1880) (Trichoptera: Leptoceridae) is analyzed.

Material and methods

The specimens were collected between October 2004 and March 2008, in streams of the Parque Provincial Salto

 Accepted by J.C. Morse: 28 Dec. 2012; published: 18 Feb. 2013