



***Paracloeodes caldensis* (Ephemeroptera: Baetidae), an atypical new species from the Colombian Andes**

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Abstract

In the present work, an atypical new species of *Paracloeodes* Day (Ephemeroptera: Baetidae) is described based on nymphs collected in the Caldas Department, Central Cordillera of Colombia. This represents the first report of the genus from Colombia. The main characteristics that distinguish the new species from congeners are: abundant setae on femora, antennae length twice the width of the head capsule, maxilla with palp twice the length of the galea-lacinia, segment II of the labial palp with a rounded projection and 2.5 times the width of segment III, tarsal claws half the length of their respective tarsi and the abdominal color pattern. The concepts of the genera *Paracloeodes*, *Varipes* and *Rivudiva* are discussed in light of the discovery of *P. caldensis* n. sp.

Key words: mayflies, South America, Neotropics, *Varipes*, *Rivudiva*

Introduction

Paracloeodes Day, 1955 is a genus of Baetidae (Ephemeroptera) with a wide distribution in South America (Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, 1996), although for many years only four species remained described from this region. In 2006, the genus was reviewed by Nieto & Salles (2006), and six new species were described from Brazil, Argentina and Bolivia; previously known species were redescribed; and *Iguaira* Salles & Lugo-Ortiz was considered a junior synonym of *Paracloeodes* based on a cladistics analysis. Recently, Emmerich & Nieto (2009) reported *Paracloeodes* from Uruguay, described two new species and updated the species key for South American *Paracloeodes*. Lima *et al.* (2010) have also described an additional species from Northwestern Brazil.

Currently in South America, *Paracloeodes* contains the following species: *P. assu* Nieto & Salles, *P. atroari* Nieto & Salles, *P. binodulus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty, *P. peri* Nieto & Salles, *P. poranga* Salles & Lugo-Ortiz, *P. quadridentatus* Lima & Salles and *P. waimiri* Nieto & Salles from Brazil; *P. eurybranchus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty from Argentina and Brazil; *P. yuto* Nieto & Salles from Argentina; *P. ibicui* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty from Argentina and Paraguay; *P. leptobanchus* Lugo-Ortiz & McCafferty from Argentina, Brazil and Paraguay; *P. charrua* Emmerich & Nieto and *P. morellii* Emmerich & Nieto from Uruguay; and *P. pacawara* Nieto & Salles from Bolivia (Nieto & Salles 2006; Emmerich & Nieto 2009; Lima *et al.* 2010).

In Colombia, according the last review of the genus (Nieto & Salles 2006), no species have been reported. Recently, among material collected in Caldas Department, central region of Colombia, an unusual species of *Paracloeodes* was found. The aim of the present paper is to describe and illustrate this new species and to report, for the first time, the genus *Paracloeodes* from Colombia.