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The larva of *Athripsodes genei* (Rambur 1842) (Trichoptera, Leptoceridae)

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Abstract

This paper describes the previously unknown larva of *Athripsodes genei* (Rambur 1842). Information on the morphology of the 5th larval instar is given and the most important diagnostic features are illustrated. In the context of existing identification keys the larva of *A. genei* keys together with *A. albifrons* (Linnaeus 1758), *A. commutatus* (Rostock 1874), *A. leucophaeus* (Rambur 1842) and *Athripsodes tavaresi* (Navás 1916). These species differ in the number of ventral edge setae at the 1st tibia and in the shape and colour of the submentum. With respect to zoogeography, *Athripsodes genei* is a (micro-)endemic of the collin and planar regions of Sardinia and Corsica (Graf et al. 2008). According to mandible morphology, *A. genei* is a collector-gatherer, shredder and, to a minor extent, also a predator.

Key words: 5th instar larva, description, identification, distribution

Introduction

In his ‘Atlas of European Trichoptera’ Malicky (2004) listed 20 valid European species of genus *Athripsodes* Billberg 1820, including *Athripsodes leucophaeus* (Rambur 1842), a species attributed to genus *Homilia* McLachlan 1877a by some authors. Unfortunately, larval descriptions exist for 8 species only: *Athripsodes aterrimus* (Stephens 1836), *A. albifrons* (Linnaeus 1758), *A. bilineatus* (Linnaeus 1758), *A. braueri* (Pictet 1865), *A. cinereus* (Curtis 1834), *A. commutatus* (Rostock 1874), *A. leucophaeus* (Rambur 1842) (= *Homilia leucophaea* [Rambur 1842]) and *Athripsodes tavaresi* (Navás 1916). The latter species has been described as *Leptocerus tavaresi* by Navás in 1916 and was considered a synonym of *Athripsodes taounate* by Dakki & Malicky (1980); the taxon has been listed as *Athripsodes tavaresi* (Navás 1916) by Malicky (2004, 2005) and was reported from the Iberian Peninsula (Spain, Portugal) as taxon *Athripsodes tavaresi* (Navás 1916) by Gonzalez & Menendez (2011). References for the available larval descriptions are listed in Table 1. To improve our knowledge of larval Leptoceridae taxonomy, we provide the description of the larva of *Athripsodes genei* (Rambur 1842) based on material collected in Sardinia several years ago.

Material and methods

A hand net was used to collect larvae of *A. genei* in a small stream at Province Nuoro, Ogliastra, Fiume Orongu between Lanusei and Tortoli, 85 m a.s.l. (39°54.705’N, 9°35.868’E) on 7 April 2001 (leg. U. Heckes/M. Hess). The material was preserved in 70% ethanol. A Nikon Labophot 2 microscope and a Nikon SMZ 1500 binocular microscope with DS-Fi1 camera and NIS-elements D 3.1 image stacking software for combining 8-50 frames in one focused image were used to study and photograph the larvae.

Species affiliation was enabled by the fact that all of the other 4 Leptoceridae species reported from Sardinia (*Ceraclea dissimilis* [Stephens 1836], *Mystacides azurea* [Linnaeus 1761], *Setodes argentipunctellus* McLachlan

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