



A new species of *Leberis* Smirnov, 1989 (Cladocera: Chydoridae) from Colombia

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Abstract

A new species of *Leberis* Smirnov 1989 (Cladocera: Chydoridae) is described based on the material from Ciénaga El Convento (Atlántico Department), Ciénaga Grande de Santa Marta (Magdalena Department), and Laguna Navío Quebrado (La Guajira Department), Colombia. In the Neotropics, *Leberis colombiensis* sp. nov. could be confused with *L. davidi* Richard, 1985. But the former differs from the latter in: (1) smaller size; (2) smaller post-pore distance; (3) gonopore region on male postabdomen un-inflated, not overhanging base of postabdominal claw; (4) shorter postanal portion of male postabdomen. Diversity of the genus worldwide is underestimated yet. We believe that more species of *Leberis* will be described in the future, i.e. after molecular genetic studies.

Key words: Cladocera, Anomopoda, taxonomy, new species, South America.

Introduction

The genus *Leberis* Smirnov, 1989 (Cladocera: Chydoridae: Aloninae) was initially described as monotypical (Smirnov 1989; Frey 1998), but then the former *Alona davidi-diaphana* group was transferred to it, expanding the volume of this genus (Sinev *et al.* 2005). Species of *Leberis* sensu Sinev *et al.*, 2005 inhabit many fresh and brackish water bodies in tropics-subtropics (Sars 1901; Infante 1980; Frey 1991; Van Damme & Dumont 2008; Sinev & Sanoamuang 2011; Sinev & Korovchinsky 2013). But the genus penetrates towards the north in Eurasia up to Mediterranean region (Margaritora 1985) and South Korea (Jeong *et al.* 2014), and in North America at least up to northern Mexico (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008); it also presents in the southernmost portions of Australia and Africa (Smirnov & Timms 1983; Smirnov 2008), therefore its distribution could be regarded as tropicopolitan sensu Schabetsberger *et al.* (2009).

It is accepted nowadays that the genus contains four valid species: *L. diaphanus* (King, 1853) from tropics-subtropics of the Old World, *L. davidi* (Richard, 1895) from the Neotropics, *L. aenigmatica* Smirnov, 1989 from Australia, and *L. chihuahuensis* Elías-Gutiérrez & Valdez-Moreno, 2008 from a single locality in Mexico (Elías-Gutiérrez & Valdez-Moreno 2008). At the same time, it was already declared that both populations of *L. cf. diaphanus* in Africa and *L. cf. davidi* in the Neotropics are species groups rather than single species (Van Damme *et al.* 2010).

Studies of the Cladocera of Colombia are in progress now (Fuentes-Reinés & Elmoor-Loureiro 2011; Fuentes-Reinés & Zoppi de Roa 2013; Kotov & Fuentes-Reinés 2014), but until now only a single species, *L. davidi*, has been reported from this country (in the Córdoba, Magdalena and La Guajira Department, see Álvarez 2010; Fuentes-Reinés *et al.* 2012; Fuentes-Reinés 2014). A detailed re-examination of these populations led us to conclusion that they belong to a new species rather than *L. davidi*. The aim of this paper is to describe this new species and compare its morphology with one of its closest congeners.