



<http://dx.doi.org/10.11646/zootaxa.4033.2.8>

<http://zoobank.org/urn:lsid:zoobank.org:pub:DB7D8C46-9F71-4D1F-9D15-EFB221541A57>

### A new species of *Branchinecta* (Crustacea: Anostraca) from Uruguay

D. CHRISTOPHER ROGERS<sup>1</sup> & HELEN RACZ LORENZ<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kansas Biological Survey/ Biodiversity Institute, Kansas University, Higuchi Hall, 2101 Constant Avenue, Lawrence, KS 66047-3759 USA. E-mail: Branchiopod@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup>Sur Atlantic Zoologi, Avda. Lezica 5846, Montevideo 12500, Uruguay. E-mail: suratlanticzoologi@netgate.com.uy

**Abstract.** *Branchinecta uruguayensis*, a new species of fairy shrimp, is described from a single seasonally astatic aquatic habitat in coastal Uruguay. This is the first record of an anostracan from the nation of Uruguay. Male *B. uruguayensis* n. sp. are separated from other *Branchinecta* species by the form of the second antennae. *Branchinecta uruguayensis* n. sp. share the distal antennomere lobiform projection with *B. papillata* Rogers, De los Rios, & Zúñiga, 2008 and *B. achalensis* César, 1985. *Branchinecta uruguayensis* n. sp. females are readily separated from all other *Branchinecta* by the presence of posteriolateral thoracic spines and lateral crenulations on the first abdomen segment margins. A key is provided to the Branchinectidae of South America.

**Key words:** Fairy Shrimp, South America, biodiversity, Branchiopoda

#### Introduction

The temperate regions of the Americas provide numerous seasonally astatic aquatic habitats that can support branchiopod crustaceans. These regions support the majority of species in the family Branchinectidae, with 28 species in North America, 18 in South America, and 5 in Eurasia (one species is circumpolar in distribution) (Rogers 2013). Despite the fact that numerous species have been described from South America in recent years, new species are still frequently found, demonstrating that there is still much to be learned about South American Anostraca (Cohen 2012). Herein another new species of anostracan from South America is presented. This new species is the first *Branchinecta* species described from Uruguay. This is the 52nd species described in this family. A key to the South American species of *Branchinecta* is presented in an effort to facilitate further exploration for these species.

#### Methods

This species was discovered in a seasonally astatic aquatic habitat in coastal Uruguay. Don Dasis of Kansas, provided live eggs from culture and specimens to the first author. The specimens were preserved in 70% ethyl alcohol, which was changed after 24 hours. Type material is deposited at the United States National Museum (USNM).

#### *Branchinecta uruguayensis* n. sp.

Figure 1.

**Types.** Holotype, male, data: URUGUAY: Rocha Department: Barra de Valizas: cultured from eggs collected from a temporary pool, November 2007, D. Dasis, deposited: USNM no. 1283171. Allotype, female; same data as holotype. Deposited: USNM no. 1283172. Paratypes: same data as holotype, 2 females, 2 males; Deposited: USNM no. 1283173.

**Type locality.** The type locality was a seasonally astatic aquatic pool in saline, sandy soils near the sea, in a livestock pasture in the city limits of the resort town Barra de Valizas (also known as Fondo de Valizas). The greatest depth was 10cm, and it held water in the summer months. This site was destroyed for urban development. Soil from the site was collected (by HRL) in the hope that should this species prove to be extinct in the wild, captive cultures can be maintained.