

Publicaciones científicas del Dr. Raúl A. Ringuelet

Some advances in the knowledge of Neotropical Leeches

En:

Limnobiós 2 (4): 226, 1981

Instituto de Limnología «Dr. Raúl A. Ringuelet»

Some advances in the knowledge of Neotropical Leeches

RAÚL A. RINGUELET

The analysis of some collections (Museo de Historia Natural de Montevideo, Instituto de Biología de México, Instituto de Limnología, I.L.P.L.A., Argentina), and several trips to México, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Brasil, Chile and Uruguay allowed to increase our knowledge of many critical, poorly known and new species.

A. Rodríguez Capítulo and the author studied the respiratory metabolism of some common argentine leeches from the Rio de la Plata region of means of a multiple modified Warburg device.

The Instituto de Biología of the UNAM, México, is the repository of the Mexican leeches described by Eduardo Caballero y C. between 1920 and 1958. Judging from the specimens observed in those collections, as well as from the analysis of topotypes, *Glossiphonia fusca* and *Helobdella socimulcensis* Cab. are sinonimous with *Helobdella triserialis* (E. Blanchard, 1849). *Helobdella elongata* (Castle, 1900), is another member of the Mexican leech-fauna, but, curiously, all specimens, live and dead, have very inconspicuous eyes. *Piscicola platensis* Cordero was doubtfully cited by Moore (1936) from Yucatan's cenotes but the specimens observed (donated by Dr. Moore to the Mexican scientist) actually is *Myzobdella patzcuarensis* Cab, 1941. The endemic Mexican *Macrobdelellidae* (subfamily *Limnoblellinae* Ringuelet) are in urgent need of a through revision. It is my opinion that the genera *Limnoblella* Blanchard, 1893 (comprising 5 species) and the monospecific *Pintoblella* Caballero, 1937 can still both be considered valid, despite the coincidence in their external features. They differ in the digestive tract, as well as in some minor details of the male's paired ducts. A new large *Limnoblella* from the San Juan river bassin (Costa Rica) will soon be described. Only three *Erpoblella* species can be reported from México: *E. ochoterenai* Caballero, *E. triannulata* Moore, and *E. punctata mexicana* Duges, 1876), but the identifications of subsequent authors not allways has been correct. I have had the opportunity to collect topotypic material of Caballero's and Duges's leeches. *E. ochoterenai* Cab. also inhabits Costa Rica. Also a new biannulate *Oligoblella* from the Amazonas Basin is at

present under study; it was collected from a peixe-boi fish (*Arapaima gigas*), A new gigantic *Cylicobdellidae* 214 mm long was obtained in Costa Rica (*Blanchardiella* nov. sp.); and in Panamá additional specimens of the poorly known *Cylicobdella costaricae* (Plotnikov, 1905). The results of the analysis of a small collection of land-leeches from Colombia were published recently, including redescription of *Blanchardiella octoculata* Weber, 1913 and the description of *B. adaiophthalma* Ringuet; the later having nine pairs of eyes and the endosomatic features of which are similar to those of the type species of the genus, *B. fuhrmanni* Weber, 1913. *B. fuhrmanni* and *Cylicobdella coccinea* Kennel have been found by us in the high Andes of Mérida (Venezuela). In Southern Brazil we have collected *Batracobdella gemmata* (Blanchard, 1900), *Helobdella hyalina* Ringuet, 1942 and *Orchibdella pampeana* Ringuet, 1945 (all being new for this area) ; all these species are common in Uruguay. Some Chilean leeches the only description of which were the original ones have also been rediscovered, these are: *Helobdella chilensis* Blanchard, 1900, *H. luteopunctata* Weber, 1915 and *Patagoniobdella fraterna* Ringuet, 1976.

The descriptions of new and insufficiently known leeches of the family *Piscicolidae* are at present in press such a new *Branchellion* from northern Chile, *Stibarobdella planodiscus* Baird and *Platybdella* nov. sp. from fishes of the South Atlantic.

The following contributions to the knowledge of the leeches are at present in press or have already been accepted for publication (spanish texts with extensive English summaries):

Synopsis of the leeches or Hirudinea of Chile (sent to Prof. Nivaldo Bahamonde).

The leeches (Hirudinea) of Natural History Museum of Montevideo (sent to the Director of the Museum, Prof. Miguel Klapenbach).

Key to the leeches (Hirudinea) of Mexico (accepted for publication in the «Anales del Instituto de Biología», México).

Analysis of the genus *Helobdella* Blanchard, 1893 (Hirudinea, Glossiphoniidae) with a world key to all species (to be published in «Limnobiós»).

Leeches (Hirudinea) from Costa Rica (in preparation to be submitted to «Physis», Buenos Aires).

The leeches (Hirudinea) of México, Central America, West Indies and South America, a critical list with generic diagnosis and keys for all taxa (to be published in «Limnobiós»).

Versión electrónica por:
Catalina Julia Saravia (CIC) y
Esteban Eduardo Mantovani

Instituto de Limnología «Dr. Raúl A. Ringuelet»
CONICET-UNLP

Mayo de 2004