



**Monopelopia caraguata (Chironomidae: Tanypodinae: Pentaneurini) and Phytotelmatocladus delarosai (Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae): Two Phytotelmatous Chironomids Distributed from Florida to Argentina**

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**MONOPELOPIA CARAGUATA (CHIRONOMIDAE: TANYPODINAE: PENTANEURINI) AND PHYTOTELMATOCLADIUS DELAROSAI (CHIRONOMIDAE: ORTHOCLADIINAE): TWO PHYTOTELMATOUS CHIRONOMIDS DISTRIBUTED FROM FLORIDA TO ARGENTINA**

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Phytotelmata are structures present in terrestrial plants such as modified leaves, leafaxils, flowers, stem holes or depressions, open fruits and fallen leaves. These structures allow water to impound and are more common in tropical areas where plant diversity and rainfall are higher (Fish 1983). The phytotelmata provide a suitable habitat where immature chironomids are common inhabitants.

In this contribution, the occurrence of the chironomid species *Monopelopia caraguata* Mendes et al. (Chironomidae: Tanypodinae: Pentaneurini) and *Phytotelmatocladius delarosai* Epler (Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae) are reported in Argentina for the first time. A list of the American phytotelmatus chironomids (except for species inhabiting tree holes and bamboo internodes) with the host plant and references is presented in Table 1.

Immatures stages of *Monopelopia* Fittkau (Chironomidae: Tanypodinae) have been found living in small bodies of water such as ponds, marshes and streams or phytotelmata. Of the phytotelmatus species, *M. tillandsia* Beck et Beck, *M. mikeschwartzi* Epler, *M. gesta* (Roback), *M. caraguata* Mendez et al. and an undescribed *Monopelopia* species were reported living in the impounded water of bromeliads (Poales: Bromeliaceae) (Cranston 2007; Cranston & Epler 2013). *Monopelopia tillandsia* was reported living in *Tillandsia*, *Catopsis* and *Hohenbergia* in Florida and Cuba (Beck & Beck 1966; Roback 1987; Bello et al. 2011). *Monopelopia mikeschwartzi* and *M. gesta* were reported living in *Aechmea paniculigera* (Swartz) Grisebach (Bromeliaceae) in Jamaica (Epler & Janetzky 1999; Cranston & Epler 2013), whereas the undescribed species of Cranston (2007) was reported living in *Guzmania* in Puerto Rico. *Monopelopia caraguata* was reported developing in species of *Vriesea*, *Nidularium*, *Hohenbergia* and *Aechmea* in southern Brazil (Mendez et al. 2003) and in solution holes in the Everglades National Park, Florida, USA (Jacobsen 2008). Up to present, this species was not found developing in bromeliads in Florida (R. Jacobsen, J. H. Epler and J. H. Frank, personal communication).

The cosmopolitan *Eryngium* L. (Apiales: Apiaceae) includes more than 200 species distributed in temperate and tropical areas, but these species develop phytotelmata only in southern Brazil and

Argentina (Campos 2010). Plants of this genus grow on the ground and have a simple structure and are annuals, differing from bromeliads, which comprise mainly perennial epiphytic plants with a complex structure.

Larvae of *Monopelopia caraguata* were collected from *Eryngium* plants and reared in the laboratory. This is the first report of this chironomid species associated with the terrestrial *Eryngium* plants in a temperate region. *Monopelopia caraguata* co-occurred in some *Eryngium* plants with *Polypedilum parthenogeneticum* Donato et Paggi (Chironomidae: Chironominae) and *Metricnemus eryngiotelmatus* Donato et Paggi (Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae), which are common inhabitants of *Eryngium* in Argentina.

*Phytotelmatocladius* (Chironomidae: Orthoclaadiinae) is a monospecific genus described from bromeliad phytotelmata in southern Florida and Brazil (Epler 2010). Because only female adults and pupae have been collected or reared, this author postulated that this taxon could be parthenogenetic. Immatures of *P. delarosai* were recently collected from the impounded water of *Bromelia balansae* Mez (Bromeliaceae) in a botanical garden at FCAyF-UNLP (Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Forestales- Universidad Nacional de La Plata, Buenos Aires, Argentina). This bromeliad species is exotic to this region, being native to Paraguay, Brazil and the northeast of Argentina (Zuloaga et al. 2008). Of the reared *P. delarosai*, only female adults emerged, which were maintained in separate vials containing little water. The females laid their eggs which hatched 7 days later; therefore, we confirm the assumption of Epler (2010) that *P. delarosai* could be parthenogenetic.

In the sampling of *Eryngium* plants in FCAyF-UNLP close to *B. balansae* plants, *P. delarosai* was not collected. Besides, *Monopelopia caraguata*, *Metricnemus eryngiotelmatus* and *Polypedilum parthenogeneticum* were not collected from *B. balansae*, suggesting a possible specificity or preference of those chironomids for each plant species.

Material Examined

*Monopelopia caraguata*: ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires Province, Punta Lara, ex *Eryngium* sp.

TABLE 1. LIST OF THE PHYTOTELMATOUS CHIRONOMIDS IN THE AMERICAS.

| Orthoclaadiinae                       | Taxa                                | Host plant   | Country                | References  |
|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|------------------------|---|
| <b>Orthoclaadiinae</b>                | <i>Antilocladius antecalcus</i>     | <i>Nidularium innocenti</i>  | Brazil                 | Pinho et al. 2005   |
|                                       | <i>Cricotopus</i> sp                | <i>Eryngium elegans</i>  | Argentina              | Campos 2010   |
|                                       | <i>Linnophyes</i> sp                | <i>Nidularium innocenti</i>  | Brazil                 | Pinho et al. 2005   |
|                                       | <i>Mesosmittia patrihortae</i>      | <i>Nidularium innocenti</i>  | Brazil                 | Pinho et al. 2005   |
|                                       | <i>Metricnemus abdominoflavatus</i> | <i>Tillandsia guatemalensis</i>  | Honduras               | Mendez et al. 2011  |
|                                       | <i>Metricnemus edwardsi</i>         | <i>Nidularium innocenti</i>  | Brazil                 | Pinho et al. 2005   |
|                                       | <i>Metricnemus eryngiotelmatus</i>  | <i>Tillandsia, Billbergia, Catopsis</i>  | Costa Rica             | Picado 1913   |
|                                       | <i>Metricnemus knabi</i>            | <i>Tillandsia utriculata</i>   | USA                    | Fish 1976   |
|                                       | <i>Metricnemus</i> sp               | <i>Darlingtonia</i>  | USA                    | Jones 1916  |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Eryngium horridum; E. stenophyllum, E. aff. serra, E. elegans, E. cabreriae, Dipsacus fullonum</i>                  | Argentina              | Donato & Paggi 2005, Siri et al. 2008a,b, Campos 2010       |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Sarracenia purpurea</i>   | USA to Canada          | Bradshaw 1983, Nastase et al. 1995                          |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Tillandsia turneri</i>  | Colombia               | Ospina et al. 2004  |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Tillandsia guatemalensis</i>  | Honduras               | Mendez et al. 2011  |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Bromeliads, Dipsacus</i>  | USA                    | Epler 2001, Frank & Fish 2008, Miller 1971 Baumgartner 1986 |
|                                       | <b>Tanypodinae</b>                  | <i>Orthoclaadius</i> sp  | <i>Heliamphora</i> spp | Venezuela   |
| <i>Orthoclaadiinae</i> sp             |                                     | <i>Bromeliads</i>  | Costa Rica             | Picado 1913   |
| <i>Phytotelmatoclaadius delarosai</i> |                                     | <i>Aechmea nudicaulis, Neoregelia concentrica</i>  | Brazil                 | Sodré et al. 2010   |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Bromelia balansae</i>   | Argentina              | present study   |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Bromeliads</i>  | Brazil                 | Epler 2010  |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Bromeliads</i>  | USA                    | Epler 2010  |
| <i>Ablabesmyia costaricensis</i>      |                                     | <i>Aechmea, Vriesea, Billbergia</i>  | Costa Rica             | Picado 1913   |
| <i>Larsia</i> sp                      |                                     | <i>Eryngium aff. serra, E. elegans, Aechmea distichantha</i>   | Argentina              | Campos 2010, pers. obs.                                     |
| <i>Monopelopia caraguata</i>          |                                     | <i>Vriesea splitgerberi</i>  | Brazil                 | Torreias 2008   |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Eryngium</i> spp  | Argentina              | present study   |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Aechmea nudicaulis, Hohenbergia augusta, Nidularium innocenti, Vriesea gigantea, V. philippocoburgii, V. vagans</i> | Brazil                 | Mendes et al. 2003, Pinho et al. 2005                       |
|                                       |                                     | <i>Solution holes</i>  | USA                    | Jacobsen 2008, Frank & Fish 2008, Cranton & Epler 2013      |

\*As reported by Epler & Janetzky (1999), due to taxonomic changes and the general difficulty involved in identifying Chironomidae, the preceding names from Laessle (1961) must be viewed with skepticism until the material is re-examined. \*\*Nomina dubia (Sæther et al. 2010).

TABLE 1. (CONTINUED) LIST OF THE PHYTOTELMATOUS CHIRONOMIDS IN THE AMERICAS.

| Taxa                                 | Host plant  | Country           | References                                     |
|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------|--|
| <i>Monopelopia gesta</i>             | <i>Aechmea paniculigera</i>   | Jamaica           | Epler & Janetzky 1999, Cranston & Epler 2013   |
| <i>Monopelopia mickeschwartzi</i>    | <i>Aechmea paniculigera</i>   | Jamaica           | Epler & Janetzky 1999                          |
| <i>Monopelopia tillandsia</i>        | <i>Tillandsia, Catopsis, Hohenbergia</i>  | Cuba              | Bello et al. 2011                              |
|                                      | <i>Tillandsia utriculata, Tillandsia spp</i>  | USA               | Beck & Beck 1966, Fish 1976, Frank & Fish 2008 |
| <i>Monopelopia</i> sp                | Bromeliads, <i>Aechmea nudicaulis, Neoregelia concentrica</i>   | Brazil            | Winder 1977, Sodr e et al. 2010                |
| <i>Pentaneura</i> sp                 | <i>Catopsis nitida</i>  | Puerto Rico       | Cranston 2007                                  |
|                                      | Bromeliads  | Brazil            | Winder & Silva 1972                            |
|                                      | <i>Helicornia</i>   | Costa Rica        | Naeem 1990                                     |
|                                      | Bromeliads  | Jamaica           | Laessle 1961 (*)                               |
|                                      | Bromeliads  | US Virgin Islands | Miller 1971                                    |
| Tanypodinae spp                      | <i>Aechmea fendleri, Hohenbergia stellata</i>   | Venezuela         | Liria 2007                                     |
| Chironominae sp                      | <i>Aechmea fendleri, Hohenbergia stellata</i>   | Venezuela         | Liria 2007                                     |
| <i>Chironomus anonymus</i>           | <i>Aechmea paniculigera</i>   | Jamaica           | Epler & Janetzky 1999                          |
| <i>Chironomus</i> sp                 | Bromeliads  | Costa Rica        | Picado 1913                                    |
| <i>Corynoneura</i> sp                | Bromeliads  | Jamaica           | Laessle 1961 (*)                               |
| <i>Cryptochironomus</i> sp           | <i>Vriesea splitgerberi</i>   | Brazil            | Torreias 2008                                  |
| <i>Polypedilum katingangi</i>        | Bromeliads  | Jamaica           | Laessle 1961 (*)                               |
|                                      | <i>Aechmea lindeni, Canistrum lindanii, Neoregelia laevis, Nidularium innocentii, Vriesea philippocoburgii, V. vagans</i> | Brazil            | Pinho et al. 2013                              |
| <i>Polypedilum marcondesi</i>        | <i>Nidularium innocentii, Vriesea vagans</i>  | Brazil            | Saether et al. 2010                            |
| <i>Polypedilum panacu</i>            | <i>Tillandsia guatemalensis</i>   | Honduras          | Mendes et al. 2011                             |
| <i>Polypedilum parthenogeneticum</i> | <i>Eryngium pandanifolium</i>   | Argentina         | Donato & Paggi 2008                            |
| <i>Polypedilum pedipalpus</i> **     | Bromeliads  | Costa Rica        | Picado 1913, Spies et al. 2009                 |
| <i>Polypedilum solimoes</i>          | <i>Aechmea lindeni, Canistrum lindanii, Neoregelia laevis, Nidularium innocentii, Vriesea philippocoburgii, V. vagans</i> | Brazil            | Pinho et al. 2013                              |
| <i>Polypedilum cf tritum</i>         | <i>Aechmea paniculigera</i>   | Jamaica           | Epler & Janetzky 1999                          |
| <i>Polypedilum</i> spp               | <i>Eryngium horridum; E. stenophyllum, E. aff. serra, E. elegans, E. cabrerarae</i>                                       | Argentina         | Siri et al. 2008b, Campos 2010                 |

\*As reported by Epler & Janetzky (1999); due to taxonomic changes and the general difficulty involved in identifying Chironomidae, the preceding names from Laessle (1961) must be viewed with skepticism until the material is re-examined. \*\*Nomina dubia (Saether et al. 2010).

TABLE 1. (CONTINUED) LIST OF THE PHYTOTELMATOUS CHIRONOMIDS IN THE AMERICAS.

| Taxa                                    | Host plant   | Country           | References  |
|---|--|-------------------|---|
|   | <i>Nidularium innocentii</i> , <i>Vriesea vagans</i> ,<br><i>V. splitgerberi</i> , <i>Aechmea nudicaulis</i> , <i>Neoregelia concentrica</i> | Brazil            | Pinho et al. 2005, Torreias 2008, Sodré et al. 2010 |
| <i>Rheocricotopus</i> sp                | <i>Musa</i>  | Costa Rica        | Lichtwardt 1994                                     |
| <i>Stenochironomus atlanticus</i>       | <i>Tillandsia turneri</i>  | Colombia          | Ospina et al. 2004                                  |
|   | <i>Canistrum lindenii</i> , <i>Neoregelia laevis</i> ,<br><i>Nidularium innocentii</i> , <i>Vriesea philippocoburgii</i> , <i>V. vagans</i>  | Brazil            | Pinho et al. 2005                                   |
| <i>Tanytarsini</i> sp                   | <i>Nidularium innocentii</i>   | Brazil            | Pinho et al. 2005                                   |
|   | <i>Tillandsia utriculata</i>   | USA               | Fish 1976   |
| <i>Tanytarsus bromelicola</i>           | <i>Guzmania berteroniana</i>   | Puerto Rico       | Cranston 2007                                       |
|   | <i>Tillandsia</i>  | USA               | Cranston 2007                                       |
| <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp. nr <i>confusa</i> | Bromeliads   | US Virgin Islands | Miller 1971   |
| <i>Tanytarsus</i> sp                    | <i>Vriesea splitgerberi</i>  | Brazil            | Torreias 2008                                       |

\*As reported by Epler & Janetzky (1999); due to taxonomic changes and the general difficulty involved in identifying Chironomidae, the preceding names from Laessle (1961) must be viewed with skepticism until the material is re-examined. \*\*Nomina dubia (Sæther et al. 2010).

S 34° 51' 10" W 57° 57' 33", 7 m asl, adult male reared from larva, 4-VIII-2004, Donato col.; Adult female reared from larva, same data except for Jan 2008; ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires province, Punta Lara, ex *Eryngium* sp. S 34° 54' 37" W 57° 55' 34", 14 m asl, adult male reared from larva, 10-IX-2013, Donato & Siri cols.

*Phytotelmatocladus delarosai*: ARGENTINA, Buenos Aires province, La Plata, ex *Bromelia balansae* Mez at the Jardín Botánico y Arboretum, Facultad de Ciencias Agrarias y Forestales (FCAYF) (UNLP), S 34.912881° W 57.9332227°, adult female reared from larva, collected 9-VIII-2012, emerged 18-VIII-2012, laid their eggs which hatched on 25/26-VIII-2012, Donato & Siri cols.

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#### SUMMARY

The geographic distribution of the 2 phytotelmatous chironomids *Monopelopia caraguata* and *Phytotelmatocladus delarosai* is found to extend southward into Argentina, and the occurrence of parthenogenesis in the latter species is corroborated under laboratory conditions.

Key Words: Apiaceae, Bromeliaceae, *Catopsis*, *Eryngium*, *Hohenbergia*, *Tillandsia*, parthenogenesis

#### RESUMEN

Se extiende la distribución geográfica de las especies fitotelmatáticas *Monopelopia caraguata* y *Phytotelmatocladus delarosai* hacia el sur en Argentina, y se corrobora bajo condiciones de laboratorio la ocurrencia de partenogénesis en esta última especie.

Palabras Clave: Apiaceae, Bromeliaceae, *Catopsis*, *Eryngium*, *Hohenbergia*, *Tillandsia*, partenogénesis

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