

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**TELEBASIS GIGANTEA SPEC. NOV. FROM BOLIVIA  
(ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)**

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The new sp. is described and illustrated (holotype ♂: Santa Cruz dept., Ichilo prov., Buena Vista, Feb. 2000; allotype ♀: same data as holotype). Holotype deposited in Universidad Autonoma "Gabriel Rene Moreno" (U.A.G.R.M.) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; allotype deposited in Gainesville, Florida, USA. ♂ and ♀ can be distinguished by their very large size, dull gold thorax, and facial color which is sky-blue in ♂ but yellowish-blue in ♀.

INTRODUCTION

BICK & BICK (1996) listed 40 species in the New World genus *Telebasis*. GARRISON (1997) showed *T. fluviatilis* St. Quentin to be a synonym of *T. demararum* Williamson and described *T. milleri* as new. The addition of *T. gigantea*, which is similar to *T. aurea* (MAY, 1992), increases the total to 41 species, mostly neotropical. The larva is unknown. Specimens studied were all included in the type series.

DESCRIPTION

*TELEBASIS GIGANTEA* SP. NOV.

Figures 1-5

**Material.** — **Holotype** ♂: BOLIVIA, Santa Cruz Dept., Ichilo Province, pond 3.5 km S of Buena Vista on road to Huaytu (Claude's pond), 7-II-2000, Jerrell J. Daigle (JJD); — **Allotype** ♀: same data as holotype; — **Paratypes** (15 ♂): same data as holotype, 14 ♂ (JJD); La Poza de Espana pond 3.7 km S of Buena Vista on road to Huaytu, 14-II-2000, 1 ♂, (JJD). — The holotype and a paratype are deposited in the Departamento de Entomologia del Museo Noel Kempff Mercado under an agreement between the Universidad Autonoma "Gabriel Rene Moreno" (U.A.G.R.M.) in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and

the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) in Gainesville, USA. The allotype is deposited in the FSCA. The remaining paratypes are in the collections of Jerrell J. Daigle, Sidney W. Dunkle, Rosser W. Garrison, Dennis R. Paulson, Kenneth J. Tennessen, the National Museum of Natural History (USNM) in Washington, D.C., USA, FSCA, and the International Odonata Research Institute (IORI) in Gainesville.

**E t y m o l o g y.** — It is named for its giant proportions.

Typical *Telebasis* species are much smaller in length and size.

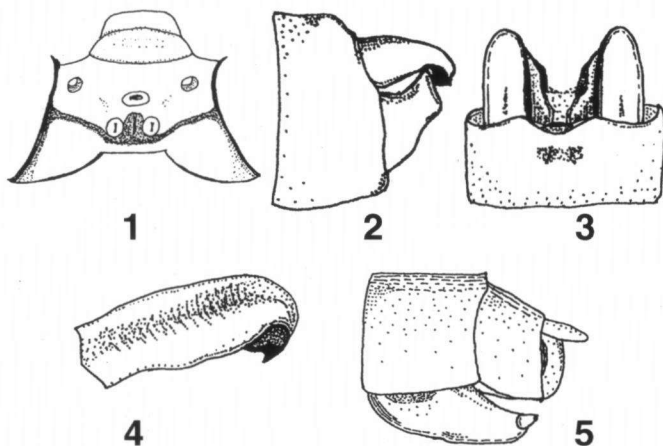
**MALE (holotype):** H e a d. — Eyes in life dark green above, green below. Entire face, frons, and genae sky-blue. Antennae mostly black, the basal segment blue. Top of head golden brown, vertex black with two pale brown spots connecting median ocellus to lateral ocelli. Occiput golden brown, a thin black posterior epicranial suture extends laterally to eyes, then rearward (Fig. 1). Rear of head golden brown.

**T h o r a x.** — Prothorax and thorax mostly golden. Hind lobe of prothorax appressed low over the mesostigmal plates. Middorsal carina black; mesepisternum with obscure brown humeral stripe in basal half. Mesinfraepisternum and mesepimeron gold. Metepisternum, metinfraepisternum, and metepimeron golden yellow. Venter pale yellow.

**Legs.** — Pale gold, thin brown extensor line, armature black; claw teeth subequal.

**Wings.** — Venation typical of genus. 13 postnodal crossveins in forewings, 10 in hindwings. Veins brown with small brown pterostigma overlying less than 1 cell, its proximal side oblique.

**A b d o m e n.** — Mostly black dorsally with faint laterobasal bluish tinges; light



Figs 1-5. *Telebasis gigantea* sp. n., holotype ♂ (1-4), and allotype ♀ (5): (1) dorsal view of head; — (2) lateral view of caudal appendages; — (3) dorsal view of caudal appendages; — (4) rearward oblique view of right cercus; — (5) lateral view of ovipositor.

brown areas lateroapically. Segment 1 gold with a dorsoapical ridge. Segment 2 gold, brown dorsally. Segments 3-6 black dorsally, each becoming brown towards the rear and then lighter brown laterally. Segment 7 black dorsally, mostly gold laterally. Segments 8-10 golden with segment 10 orange dorsally. Caudal appendages brown. Cercus slightly longer than paraproct. In lateral view, cercus narrowed in apical half, curved downward at apex to form a ventral recessed area (Fig. 2) and a black bicuspid tooth with the basal cusp larger than the apical cusp. Paraproct wider at base than cercus, narrowing at midlength; apex truncate with a sharply pointed tip directed dorsally into the ventral recess of the cercus. In dorsal view (Fig. 3), cercus tip rounded; the bicuspid tooth not visible. Paraproct (Fig. 4) with a medial setose ridge (hairs not drawn).

**Measurements** (mm). — Total length including appendages 47.5, abdomen 38.0, forewing 24.5, and hindwing 23.5.

**FEMALE (allotype).** — Similar to holotype male. Face yellowish-blue, labium edged with very light brown. Antennae black, segment two brown basally. Hind lobe of prothorax pale, slightly erect. Mesostigmal lamina lobes black at extended outer edge. Humeral stripe not present. Abdomen with less black but with greater bluish tinged laterobasal areas on segments 1-6 than in male. Segments 7-10 brown. Yellowish ovipositor reaches posterior margin of segment 10; style yellow (Fig. 5). Light brown cerci conical, slightly shorter than segment 10.

Wings as in holotype except 12-13 postnodal crossveins in forewings, 10 in hindwings.

**Measurements** (mm). — Total length including appendages 48.5, abdomen 40.0, forewing 26.0, and hindwing 24.5.

**VARIATION AMONG PARATYPES.** — Immature males have a thinner black epicranial suture, more bluish areas on most abdominal segments, and the brown humeral stripe is usually missing. Older males have a darker wider posterior epicranial suture, the bluish tinged abdominal areas become black, and the brown humeral stripe is present.

The total length ranges from 43.5-46; abdomen 35.0-38.0; forewing 23.0-24.5; hindwing 22.5-23.5. Postnodal crossveins in forewing 12-13, hindwing 10-11.

## DISCUSSION

*Telebasis gigantea* is known only from Bolivia. Its nearest relative, *T. aurea* May, is restricted to Costa Rica. The recorded flight period is from 7-14 February.

It is a late afternoon species, appearing between 4:30 and 5:30 pm in the shaded areas along the margins of two ponds. Common companion species flying at those locations were *Acanthagrion peruvianum* Leonard, *Lestes forficula* Rambur, *L. jerrelli* Tennessen, *Telebasis limoncocha* Bick & Bick, *Erythemis attala* Selys, and *Micrathyria ocellata* Martin. Rare companion species included *Lestes jurzitzi* Muzon, *Telebasis sanguinalis* Calvert and an undescribed, giant smoky-red *Telebasis* species.

In the field, the large size separates this golden species from other Bolivia *Telebasis*, most of which are smaller and have either blue/black or red coloration. The blue face of *T. gigantea* will separate it from the males of *T. aurea*, which have a golden orange face. The male paraprocts are much shorter in *T. gigantea* than in *T. aurea*. Female prothoracic horns present in *T. aurea*, are missing in *T. gigantea* females.

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