

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**METALEPTOBASIS MINTERI SPEC. NOV. FROM ECUADOR
(ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)**

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The new sp. is described from eastern Ecuador (holotype ♂ and allotype ♀, in copula: Ecuador, Napo prov., Primavera, Lake Taraoa lakeshore and nearby areas, 26-VIII-1978, deposited in the FSCA, Gainesville, FL, USA). ♂♂ are distinguished from its congeners by the slender paraprocts, and both ♂♂ and ♀♀ can be distinguished by their very small laterally directed thoracic horns.

INTRODUCTION

There are currently 17 species in *Metaleptobasis* (DAIGLE, 2000), all neotropical. The addition of *M. minteri*, which is similar to *M. brysonima* (WILLIAMSON, 1915), increases the total to 18 species. *M. minteri* is recorded so far only from Ecuador. The larva is unknown.

METALEPTOBASIS MINTERI SP. NOV.

Figures 1-5

Material. — **Holotype** ♂ and **allotype** ♀ (in copula): ECUADOR, Napo Province, Primavera, 0°27'S, 76°47'W, Lake Taraoa lakeshore, and nearby areas, 26-VIII-1978, K.W. Knopf leg. (KWK); — **Paratypes** (66 ♂, 5 ♀, 7 pairs): Same data as holotype and allotype pair, 30 ♂, 2 ♀, 5 pairs (KWK); same data but 243 m, 0°24'S, 76°36'W, 2 ♂ (KWK); same data but 26-VIII-1980, 8 ♂, 1 ♀ (KWK); same data but 26-VIII-1980, 0°24'S, 76°36'W, 243 m, swamp N of Lake Taraoa, 1 ♂, S.W. Dunkle leg.; same data but 13-VII-1977, 12 ♂, 1 ♀, S.M. & K.W. Knopf leg.; Napo prov., Limoncocha, lakeshore and nearby areas, 23-VIII-1980, 3 ♂, 1 ♀, 1 pair (KWK); Napo prov., Baeza-Lago Agrio Rd, 52 km NE of Chaco, swampforest and stream, 18-VIII-1980, 7 ♂, 1 ♀ (KWK); Napo prov., Limoncocha on Rio Napo, elev. 300 m, Lake Taraoa near Primavera, 4-XI-1980, 1 ♂, M.J. Westfall, Jr & David G. Robinson leg.; Napo prov., Taraoa, 20 km E of Puerto Francisco de Orellana, Napo River, 9-VII-1983, 2 ♂, T.H. & P.S. Gantenbein leg. — The holotype and allotype are deposited in the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) in Gainesville, Florida, USA. The remaining paratypes are in the collections of Jerrell J. Daigle,

Ken W. Knopf, Rosser W. Garrison, FSCA, the International Odonata Research Institute (IORI) in Gainesville, Florida, Ponteficia Universidad Catolica del Ecuador (PUCE), Ecuador, and the National Museum of Natural History (USNM) in Washington, D.C., USA.

E t y m o l o g y. — The species is named after Dr Minter J. W e s t f a l l, Jr for his many contributions to the field of odonatology and for being my friend.

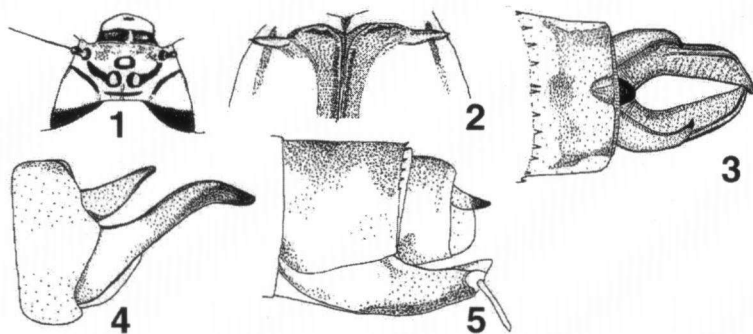
MALE (holotype). — **H e a d.** — Eye color in life not known. Mandibles, genae and labrum light brown. Anteclypeus mostly black, postclypeus dark brown with three pale spots. Antefrons and postfrons variegated with light brown and brown areas. Antennae brown with basal segments black, the remainder pale brown. Occiput and vertex (Fig. 1) mostly light brown with very light blue tinges. Ocelli ringed, but not basally. Dark brown epicranial suture interrupted near lateral ocellus. Postoccipital bar area orangish. Rear of head brownish black.

T h o r a x. — Prothorax brown, propleuron paler. Anterior part of synthorax (Fig. 2) with a pair of small laterally pointed mesepisternal horns. Black middorsal thoracic carina; mesepisternum narrowly black on medial fourth, brown laterally. Mesinfraepisternum, mesepimeron, metepisternum, metinfraepisternum, and metepimeron pale brown, then cream with light blue tinges toward venter. Venter of thorax cream.

Legs. — Pale brown; armature dark brown, almost black, no accessory teeth.

Wings. — 13 postnodal crossveins in forewings, 12 in hindwings. Veins brown with the dark brown pterostigma overlying 1 cell, its proximal side oblique.

A b d o m e n. — Mostly black dorsally, cream laterally. Segment 1 and 2 cream with black dorsally. Segments 3-6 with basolateral light blue tinges, basal rings pale, apical



Figs 1-5. *Metaleptobasis minteri* sp. n., holotype ♂ (1-4), and allotype ♀ (5): (1) dorsal view of head; — (2) dorsal view of thoracic horns; — (3) dorsal view of caudal appendages; — (4) lateral view of caudal appendages; — (5) lateral view of ovipositor.

rings black. Segment 7 orange with large dorsal brown area basally, then becoming orange apically; pale basal ring only. Segments 8-10 orange brown with darker brown in basal halves. Segment 10 with apical margin transverse, slightly elevated medially in lateral view with small concavity dorsally. Caudal appendages orangish-brown, both cerci and paraprocts almost black apically. Cerci conical in lateral view, about 0.50 length of paraprocts. In dorsal view, cerci more convergent inwards at apices than paraprocts. Viewed laterally (Fig. 3), slender orangish-brown paraprocts undulate slightly at apical 0.70 length. Viewed dorsally (Fig. 4), paraprocts evenly sided, becoming slightly convergent at apices.

Measurements (mm). – Total length including appendages 43.0, abdomen 36.5, forewing 22.0, and hindwing 21.0.

FEMALE (allotype). – As in holotype ♂ including thoracic horns. Color patterns very similar except slightly darker in lower half of mesepisternum. Abdominal segment 7 mostly brown, darker brown dorsally. Segment 8 brown, segments 9 and 10 orange. Ovipositor brown (Fig. 5), edged with blackish-brown ventrally; extending just beyond dark-tipped, light orange conical cerci. No vulvar spine, style blackish-brown.

Wings. – As in holotype ♂.

Measurements (mm). – Total length including appendages 41.0, abdomen 34.0, forewing 22.0, and hindwing 21.5.

VARIATION AMONG PARATYPES. – Total length (mm) of ♂ ranges from 41-44, ♀ 43-43.5; abdomen ♂ 34-37, ♀ 35-36.5; forewing ♂ 20.5-22.5, ♀ 21-22.5; hindwing ♂ 20-22.5, ♀ 20.5-22.5; postnodal crossveins in forewing ♂ 11-14, ♀ 11-13; hindwing ♂ 11-13, ♀ 11-12.

DISCUSSION

Metaleptobasis minteri is known only from eastern Ecuador but will likely be found elsewhere in the western Amazon basin. Its nearest relative, *M. brysonima*, is known from French Guyana, Peru, Trinidad and Venezuela. *M. minteri* occurs in eutrophic oxbow lakes similar to Lake Taraoa and Lake Limoncocha. This species flew in the shaded and tangled rainforest margins of these lakes. Companion species flying with *M. minteri* (DUNKLE, 1982) were *Perithemis lais* (Perty) and *P. rubita* Dunkle.

Viewed laterally, *M. minteri* males can be separated by the conical apical portions of the cerci; these structures are sharply decurved downward and semicircular in *M. brysonima*. The very small, lateral thoracic horns will distinguish *M. minteri* males and females from *M. brysonima* Williamson, which has large, conspicuous thoracic horns that are directed upwards and cephalad. Also, the small lateral thoracic horns separate *M. minteri* from all other known species in the genus except *M. bicornis* Selys. Unfortunately, the only known male specimen of *M. bicornis* is missing the last four terminal abdominal segments, including the appendages. I examined that specimen which is presently housed in the Carnegie Museum. The specimen is reddish in coloration and lacks the blue tinged areas found in *M. minteri*.

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