

Description of the female of *Schizopelex furcifera* MCLACHLAN, 1880 (Trichoptera, Sericostomatidae)

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Abstract

The female of *Schizopelex furcifera* is figured for the first time and information on the distributions of *Schizopelex furcifera* MCLACHLAN, 1880, *Schizopelex festiva* (RAMBUR, 1842) and *Schizopelex genalica* RUIZ-GARCIA, 2014 is given.

Keywords: female description, distribution, *Schizopelex*, caddisflies

Introduction

In the southwestern West Palearctic region (southwestern Europe), the genus *Schizopelex* McLachlan 1876 is represented by three recognized species (RUIZ-GARCIA & FERRERAS-ROMERO, 2014). *Schizopelex furcifera* MCLACHLAN, 1880 is distributed in northeastern Spain and in the Pyrenees, *Schizopelex festiva* (RAMBUR, 1842) occurs throughout most of the Iberian Peninsula and the Maghreb. *Schizopelex genalica* RUIZ-GARCIA, 2014 was recently described from the Sierra Nevada in Southern Spain (fig. 2). In this paper, the female of *Schizopelex furcifera* is described and illustrated for the first time.

Description

The head of the female of *Schizopelex furcifera* is light brown, antenna and maxillary palps yellowish-brown. Meso- and meta-thorax are dark brown. Tergites, sternites, coxae and femora are brown, tibia and tarsi yellowish-brown. The tibia have one row of black spines on the ventral rim while the tarsi have two rows of short black spines ventrally. The wings are light brown, the forewing length is 11 mm, the hindwing length 8 mm. The maxillary palps have five segments, densely covered with dark hair on the outer side, on the inner side hairless. The basal limb is short, as long as broad, the other four segments are three times as long, tapered to the tip. The labial palps consist of four elements, the tibial spur formula is 2-2-4, ocelli are lacking.

Female genitalia: abdominal segment X is very structured. From the middle of its distal half to the end there are two inner lobes (fig. 1, a), flanked by two bumpy outer lobes (b), each cutout on the dorso-distal end. Above the base of the outer lobe is a thin, inwardly curved and dark sclerotized hook shaped scale (c) on each side. The base of segment X consists of a rounded and transparent blade (d) that is slightly incurved in the middle. Segment IX shows two large and dark sclerites laterally (e) and a central sclerite of an almost round shape (f). In the center, between these sclerites, the sclerotized end of the genital apparatus (g) protrudes.

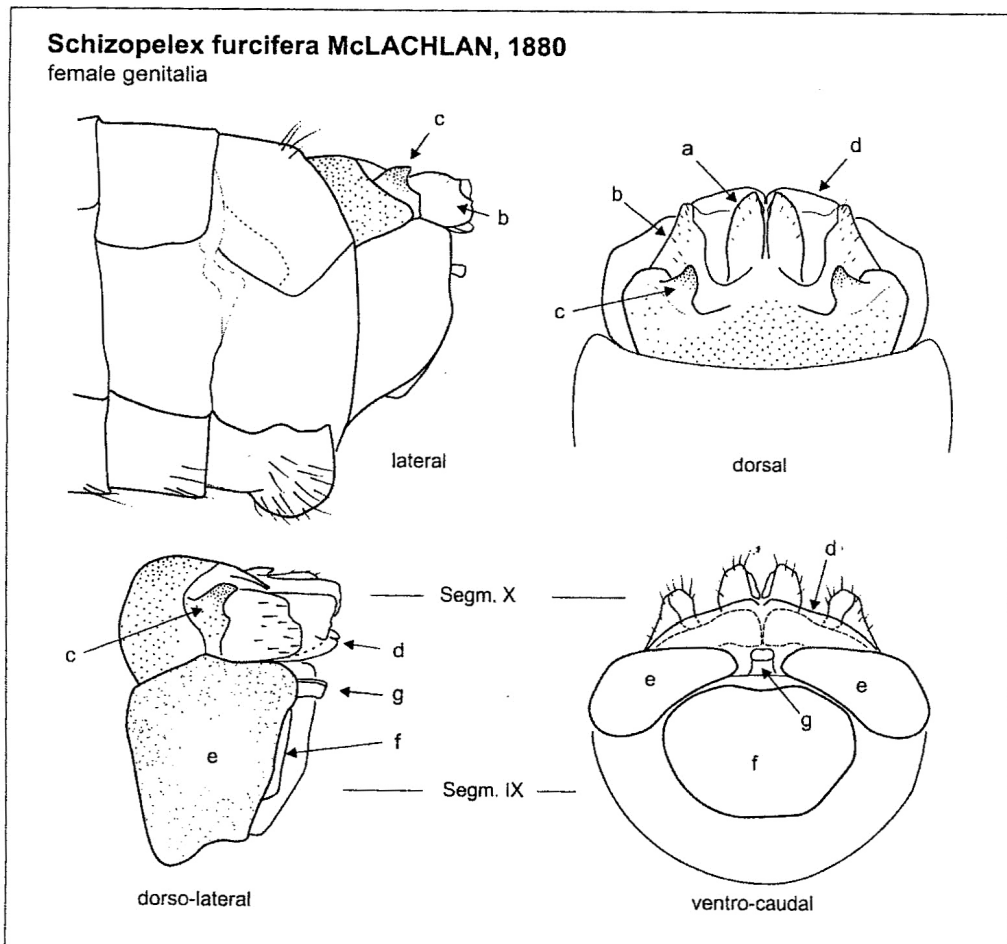


Fig. 1: Genitalia of *Schizopelex furcifera* MCLACHLAN, 1880, female; a = segm. X, inner lobes; b = segm. X, outer lobes; c = segm. X, hook shaped scale; d = segm. X, transparent blade; e = segm. IX, lateral sclerites; f = segm. IX, central sclerite, g = segm. IX, sclerotized end of internal apparatus

Material examined: 27.07.2015, 1 ♀, France, Eastern Pyrenees, 2,5 km N Saint-Sauveur, ford crossing Ruisseau de Cal Cabous, N 42.43821, E 2.44954, 1090 m (neotype); 27.07.2015, 1 ♀, Eastern Pyrenees, Prats-de Mollo-la Preste, 5 km NW, spring brook tributary to the creek La Parciguole, waterfall, N 42.43027, E 2.44417, 1.000 m; 28.07.2015, 1 ♂, 2 ♀, Eastern Pyrenees, Vallter, spring brook below the road C-771, N 42.404168, E 2.284170, 1.700 m; all specimen collected by the author and stored in the private collection of P.J. Neu. 07.08.1999, 1 ♂, France, Eastern Pyrenees, Eyne, Mantet, Ruisseau de Mantet, N 42.48280, E 2.29803, 1.460 m, leg. S. Peslier, coll. P.J. Neu.

Ecological notes. Males and females of *S. furcifera* were caught in four different locations in the Eastern Pyrenees. They were collected at small crenal to epirhithral creeks in altitudes between 1000 and 1700 m a.s.l. Other Trichoptera species collected together with *S. furcifera* were *Adicella reducta* (MCLACHLAN, 1865), *Tinodes maclachlani* KIMMINS, 1966, *Tinodes assimilis assimilis* MCLACHLAN, 1865, *Beraea maurus* (CURTIS, 1834) and *Wormaldia triangulifera* MCLACHLAN, 1878.

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Reference

RUIZ-GARCIA, A. & FERRERAS-ROMERO, F. (2014): A new species of genus *Schizopelex* MCLACHLAN (Trichoptera, Sericostomatidae), from the southern Iberian Peninsula; *Zootaxa* 3866 (2): 297–300

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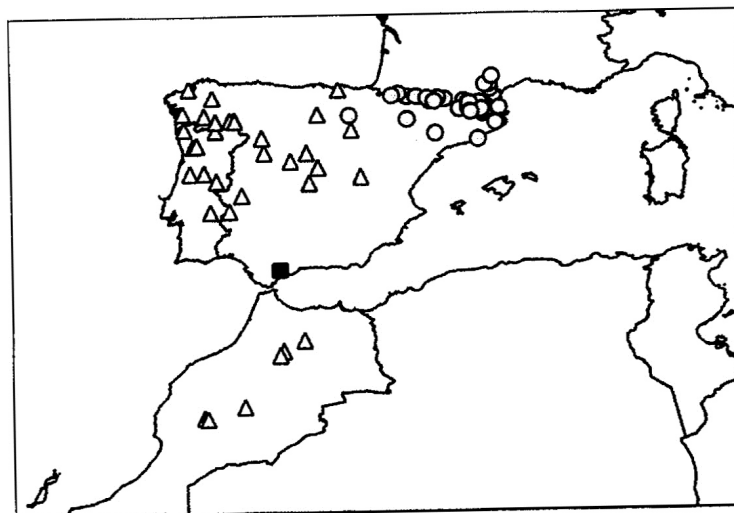


Fig. 2: Distributions of *Schizopelex furcifera* MCLACHLAN, 1880 (grey circles), *Schizopelex festiva* (RAMBUR, 1842) (triangles) and *Schizopelex genalica* RUIZ-GARCIA, 2014 (black square)