BRAUERIA (Lunz am See, Austria) 44:50-51 (2017)

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

PETER J. NEU

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 genitalis 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-García & 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 genitalis 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.

Schizopelex furcifera McLACHLAN, 1880
female genitalia

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 humpy 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 (neotyloptype); 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, 1000 m; 28.07.2015, 1 ♂, 2 ♀, Eastern Pyrenees, Vallter, spring brook below the road C-771, N 42 404168, E 2 284170, 1700 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, 1460 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 epirhythral 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 macquarti KIMMINS, 1966, Tinodes assimilis assimilis MCLACHLAN, 1865, Bernea marcus (CURTIS, 1834) and Wormaldia triangulifera MCLACHLAN, 1878.

Acknowledgements
I thank Prof. Wolfram Graf, Vienna, for his useful suggestions and Dr. James P. O’Connor, Dublin, for the review and correction of the English text.

Reference

Author. Peter J. Neu, Heiligenbürgert 1, D-54317 Kasel, Germany; email: peter.neu@trichoptera-rp.de

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