

The calanoid fauna (Crustacea, Copepoda) of the Cordillera Oriental of the Colombian Andes

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Abstract

Calanoid copepods belonging to four species and one subspecies from lakes and ponds mainly from the Cordillera Oriental (22) and Cordillera Central (1) of the Colombian Andes are recorded. Most of the water bodies studied are located in the 'páramo' region, between 2996 and 4085 m altitude. The family Boeckellidae is recorded for the first time from Colombia. Taxonomic characteristics of *Boeckella occidentalis* Marsh, 1906, *Boeckella gracilis* (Daday, 1902) and the diaptomid *Prionodiptomus colombiensis* (Thiébaud, 1914) are discussed. A new diaptomid genus, *Colombodiptomus*, with one species and one subspecies are established.

Introduction

The only freshwater calanoid copepod known from Colombia is *Prionodiptomus colombiensis* (Thiébaud, 1914), collected from a mountain lake (2070 m) in the Cordillera Oriental de Los Andes. It was reported again from the lowland waters of the Caribbean plains (Pearse, 1915; Kiefer, 1956).

The South American species of Diaptomidae were listed by Brandorff (1976), the copepods by Löffler (1981) and Dussart (1983, 1984), without adding any other species from Colombia.

Löffler (1963) suggests that boeckellids could also be present in mountain lakes of Colombia. Other species of diaptomids could also occur in the country.

Material and methods

Table 1 shows the origin of the different samples and the date of their collection. Material collected

by the author from the littoral regions or the outlets of lakes was taken with a hand-net of 40 μm and from the pelagic zone by vertical hauls with a plankton-net of 200 μm mesh-size. The samples were preserved with 5% formalin.

Animals were stained with bengal rose and dissected in polyvinyl lactophenol using sharpened tungsten needles. Illustrations were made with a drawing tube mounted on a Reichert microscope and with a Reichert lanameter.

Dissected and 70% alcohol preserved specimens were stored in the Naturhistorisches Museum Wien, Austria (NHMW) and in the Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá (ICN-MHN). The remaining specimens form part of the author's collection.

Description of the study area

The names of the localities studied (Loc.) are given in Table 1 together with physical (altitude,