

CABALLITOS DEL DIABLO (ODONATA) DE LAS SIERRAS DE TAPIRAPECO Y
UNTURAN, EN EL EXTREMO SUR DE VENEZUELA

DRAGONFLIES (ODONATA) FROM THE SIERRAS OF TAPIRAPECO AND UNTURAN,
IN THE EXTREME SOUTH OF VENEZUELA

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Palabras claves: Odonata, Amazonas, Tapirapeco, Unturán, Venezuela.

SUMMARY

During an expedition carried out in February and March 1989 about 300 dragonflies, including some larvae, were collected. They represent 12 families, 46 genera and 80 species. *Dimeragrion unturanense* sp. n., *Lestes debellardi* sp. n. and *Leptobasis yanomami* sp. n. are new to science, while a further five species are first Venezuelan records. *Allopodagrion* Förster is re-established in its original full generic rank. The hitherto unknown larvae of seven species are described and illustrated. Only about 50% of the species found had been recorded previously from the neighbouring region of Mt. Neblina. The material studied, including the holotypes of the new species, are deposited in the collection of the Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola (MIZA), Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay.

RESUMEN

Durante la expedición llevada a cabo en Febrero-Marzo de 1989 a la Serranía de Tapirapeco, se capturaron cerca de 300 "caballitos del diablo", incluyendo adultos y larvas. Ellas representan 12 familias, 46 géneros y 80 especies. *Dimeragrion unturanense*, *Lestes debellardi* y *Leptobasis yanomami* son nuevas especies para la ciencia, mientras que otras cinco especies representan nuevos registros para Venezuela. *Allopodagrion* Förster es reestablecido en su completo y original rango genérico. Las larvas previamente desconocidas de siete especies se describen e ilustran. Sólo cerca del 50% de las especies encontradas han sido registradas previamente para la región vecina del Cerro La Neblina. El material estudiado, incluyendo los holotipos y paratipos de las especies nuevas, se encuentran depositados en la Colección del Museo de Zoología Agrícola (MIZA), Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Maracay.

INTRODUCTION

Only recently, and thanks to the effort of the "Fundación para el Desarrollo de las Ciencias Físicas, Matemáticas y Naturales" (FUDEC), Caracas, it became for the first time possible to explore the dragonfly fauna of Venezuela's southern most mountain ridges on or close to the Brazilian border. In 1984 and 1985 a long-term expedition to Mt. Neblina yielded close to 30 new dragonfly species and a similar number of first records (DE-MARMELS, 1989a, b). At the beginning of 1989 I was invited to participate in an expedition to the Sierra de Tapirapecó and neighbouring mountains

and river systems. The region explored lies East of Mt. Neblina and is one of Venezuela's so-called "last frontiers". It includes, besides of the Sierra de Tapirapecó proper, the more northern Sierra de Unturán, as well as some lowland sites along the Río Siapa and the Río Mavaca (Map. 1). The former drains to the Amazon while the Mavaca belongs in the Orinoco drainage system. The study area lies on the Guayana shield, within the territory of the Yanomami Indians. The whole region is completely covered by a closed canopy of virgin rain forest interrupted only by the meandering rivers.