

**TEPUIBASIS GEN. NOV. FROM THE PANTEPUI REGION
OF VENEZUELA, WITH DESCRIPTIONS OF FOUR NEW
SPECIES, AND WITH BIOGEOGRAPHIC, PHYLOGENETIC
AND TAXONOMIC CONSIDERATIONS ON THE
TEINOBASINAE (ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)**

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The new genus *Tepuibasis* includes 7 spp., all endemic to Pantepui; — 4 are new to science, viz.: *T. garciana* sp. n. from the Serranía de Maigualida, *T. nigra* sp. n. from Cerro Yutajé and Cerro Yaví, *T. rubicunda* sp. n. from Cerro Guanay, and *T. thea* sp. n., also from Cerro Guanay. *T. chimantai* (De Marmels, 1988), comb. n., *T. fulvum* (Needham, 1933), comb. n. and *T. neblinae* (De Marmels, 1989) comb. n. are transferred to *Tepuibasis* from *Aeolagrion* Williamson, 1917. The new genus falls within *Teinobasinae* Tillyard, 1917 (= *Amphicneminae* Fraser, 1957 syn. n. = *Nehalenniinae* De Marmels, 1984 syn. n), and herein within *Teinobasini*, because of the presence of an articulated ventrobasal spur on the male cercus. Other noticeable features of *Tepuibasis* are a bifid apical penis segment, and a spiny, auricle-like process directed proximad, at the base of each of the lobes forming bifid tip. *Tepuibasis* evolved out of ancestral *teinobasine* stock with considerable morphogenetic potential reflected by the large number of recent genera present in cratonic S. America, which is equaled only by insular SE Asia. Taxogeny of *Tepuibasis* was triggered by the uplift of the Guyana shield, and the vicariant species are the result of secondary isolation through fracturing and partial erosion of these highlands.

INTRODUCTION

The complex relationships between several genera or species clusters of *Coenagrionidae*, all apparently related to *Telebasis* Selys, 1865 are still not fully understood. In some cases the relevant characters or character states (synapomorphies), which cladistic philosophy requires for supporting the currently accepted taxonomic arrangements, have yet to be identified. Such is the case of *Helve-*