

REVIEW OF THE NEOTROPICAL DAMSELFLY FAMILY DICTERIIDIDAE (NEW SPELLING), WITH AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY (ZYGOPTERA)

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A review of all names associated with the Dicteriadidae (corrected spelling for Dicteriastidae) shows that only 2 genera, each monotypic, are valid. A study of over 125 specimens revealed remarkable intraspecific variability in venational characters formerly considered stable and conservative. The valid species are *Dictérias atrosanguinea* Sel. and *Heliocharis amazona* Sel. *Neocharis*, *Charitopteryx*, and *Cyanocharis* are new synonyms of *Heliocharis*. *Heliocharis braziliensis* Hag., *H. libera* Sel., *Cyanocharis valga* Needham, and *Neocharis cothurnata* Foerster are new synonyms of *Heliocharis amazona*. Notes on biology and an annotated bibliography are included.

INTRODUCTION

A group of damselflies unique to South America and referred to in most recent literature as Dicteriastidae or Heliocharitidae has had an extraordinarily tangled taxonomic history in five languages. A total of 3 family names, 5 genus names, and 9 species names have been associated with the group. All of the species were described from only 1 to 3 specimens, with the descriptions based mostly on wing venation; no species was differentiated from another on the basis of body morphology, including genitalia. Unfortunately, the venation in this group is variable, even in conservative characters considered stable in other Odonata.

Specimens of this family are generally rare in collections, but are of considerable phylogenetic interest (FRASER, 1957). Based on a study of all literature on the group, and of over 125 specimens, I believe that only 2 valid species, each in a monotypic genus, have been described in this family. These are the first 2 species described in the group, *Dictérias atrosanguinea* and *Heliocharis amazona*, both