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A Synopsis of the Genus *Hetaerina* with Descriptions of Four New Species (Odonata: Calopterygidae)

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ABSTRACT

This synopsis of *Hetaerina* includes descriptions of four new species (*H. curvicauda*, *H. erythrokalamus*, *H. flavipennis*, and *H. indeprensa*), keys to all males and most females, an annotated alphabetical account of all 37 presently recognized species, and illustrations of taxonomic characters for all species. The following nomenclatoral changes are proposed: *Hetaerina borchgravii* and *H. fuscibasis* are transferred to *Mnesarete*; *H. carnifex* is considered a junior synonym of *H. longipes*; *H. donna* a junior synonym of *H. rosea*; *H. klugi* and *H. papavarina* junior synonyms of *H. laesa*; *H. macropus* a junior synonym of *H. occisa*; *H. sanguinolenta* a junior synonym of *H. hebe*; *H. tolteca* a junior synonym of *H. capitalis*. The specific status of *H. maxima* and *H. smaragdalis* is questioned and they are provisionally considered the same as *H. capitalis*. The intersternite, a newly discovered morphological character in females, is found to vary specifically, allowing identification of most females.

INTRODUCTION

Damselflies of the genus *Hetaerina* are conspicuous elements in riverine areas in tropical America. The genus is speciose and reaches its greatest development in South America. These beautiful insects, often called ruby-spots for the red basal spot on the wings of males, are usually found in any collection of neotropical dragonflies. Many of its members are abundant and have widespread distributions.

Unfortunately, the identification of species, especially from South America, is difficult. Calvert (1901), who revised the Mexican and Central American species, described the difficulties involved. Many species are similar and the caudal appendages of the males furnish the only reliable means of positive identification. Good illustrations of these structures are, therefore, a necessity to promote proper identification. Few characters have been found to identify females, and there has been virtually no progress in identifying members of that sex. The only comprehensive revision of all species was by Selys (1854). His work was accompanied by several freehand illustrations by Hagen of the male appendages of some species. Selys and Hagen described new forms in 1859, 1869, 1873a, and 1879, and the definition of various species became