

**AN ANALYSIS OF THE *PSAIRONEURA TENUISSIMA* COMPLEX,
INCLUDING SYNONYMY OF *P. MACHADOI* DE MARMELS
WITH *P. BIFURCATA* SJÖSTEDT
(ZYGOPTERA: PROTONEURIDAE)**

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A review of the exclusively South American components of the genus *Psaironeura* Williamson shows that only 2 spp. are involved, *P. bifurcata* (Sjöstedt), and *P. tenuissima* (Selys). *P. machadoi* De Marmels is considered a synonym of *P. bifurcata*. Illustrations of the variability within the appendages, keys to ♂♂, and comments on the taxonomy of the group are included.

INTRODUCTION

WILLIAMSON (1915) proposed the genus *Psaironeura* to contain *Protoneura remissa* Calvert and his newly described species, *P. cerasina*. Since then, six names have been placed under this genus. *Psaironeura remissa* and *P. selvatica* Esquivel are largely dark metallic green species from Central America whose males possess broadly foliate cerci in lateral view. A third undescribed species similar to *P. remissa* is known from Panama, Venezuela, Colombia and Ecuador. The other four names have been applied to a series of entirely South American specimens, whose males possess semicircular cerci and are pale (thorax mostly red in life). The latter species names are the subject of this paper.

SELYS (1886) described *Protoneura tenuissima* from at least two pairs from "Pebas, Tefé (Amazone). Coll. Selys." of which a lectotype was selected by MACHADO (1985). WILLIAMSON (1915) described *Psaironeura cerasina* from one male from Wismar, British Guiana. He described this species in life as "a delicate and beautiful insect, the

* I dedicate this paper Dr M.W. Moore for his contributions to Odonata conservation.