

The true *Argia difficilis* Selys, 1865, with the description of *Argia yungensis* sp. nov. (Odonata: Coenagrionidae)

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ABSTRACT

Argia yungensis sp. nov., a new species close to *Argia difficilis*, is described. Both species are illustrated and diagnosed and their distributions mapped. They can be distinguished by the morphology of male tori, cerci and paraproct, and female prothorax. Their distributions are allopatric, with *Argia yungensis* distributed along the foothill jungle of the Yungas rain forest from NW Argentina to Peru, and *A. difficilis* from Peru and Brazil to Venezuela across the lowland Amazon forest. *Argia extranea forficula* Fraser is synonymized with *A. difficilis*, and the latter is redescribed.

Key Words: Odonata, *Argia*, Coenagrionidae, Zygoptera, South America, Yungas.

RESUMEN

Argia yungensis sp. nov., una nueva especie cercana a *Argia difficilis*, es descrita. Ambas especies son ilustradas y diagnosticadas y sus distribuciones mapeadas. Se distinguen por la morfología de los tori, cercos y paraproctos del macho, y del protórax de la hembra. Sus distribuciones son alopátricas, con *Argia yungensis* distribuida a lo largo de la selva pedemontana de las selvas nubladas de las Yungas desde el NO de Argentina hasta Perú, y *A. difficilis* desde Perú y Brasil hasta Venezuela a través de la selva baja Amazónica. *Argia extranea forficula* Fraser es sinonimizada con *A. difficilis*, y esta última es redescrita.

INTRODUCTION

Ever since its original description (Selys 1865) from a single female from “Jurimanguas au Pérou”, the true status of *Argia difficilis* Selys has remained a mystery. In his original description Selys noted (translated from French): “By the raised plates of the thorax, which are barely perceptible, separated at the crest becoming obliterated outwardly and situated on the inner side touching a sunken part, they recall equally [*Argia*] *lilacina*.” Calvert (1902) in his well-known *Biologia Centrali-Americana* assigned the name to females with large, foliar-like mesostigmal lobes from Panama (Bugaba), Colombia, Venezuela and Ecuador. Later (Calvert 1907) he provided a description and illustrations of the male based on a series of 17 males and 6 females from Surubres, Costa Rica. Calvert (1909) included a female from Colombia under this name, and commented on the close association of the male of *Argia difficilis* with his newly described *Argia hasemani* Calvert: “The male of [*Argia hasemani*] so closely resembles that of *A. difficilis*