First record of the freshwater copepod *Mesocyclops paranaensis* Dussart & Frutos, 1986 (Copepoda: Cyclopoida: Cyclopidae) from Colombia

Primer registro del copépodo de aguadulce *Mesocyclops paranaensis* Dussart & Frutos, 1986 (Copepoda: Cyclopoida: Cyclopidae) de Colombia

Juan M. Fuentes-Reinés 1
https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5809-4271
juanfuentesreines@gmail.com

Eduardo Suárez-Morales 2
https://orcid.org/0000-0003-2051-8707
esuarez@ecosur.mx

Pedro Eslava 1
https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4779-1589
pemo2002@gmail.com

*Corresponding author
1 Universidad del Magdalena, Grupo de Investigación en Biodiversidad y Ecología Aplicada, A. A. 731. Santa Marta, Colombia.
2 El Colegio de la Frontera Sur, Unidad Chetumal, A. P. 424, 77014 Chetumal, Quintana Roo, México.

Abstract.
The Neotropical free-living freshwater cyclopoid copepod *Mesocyclops paranaensis* Dussart & Frutos, 1986 was found in a small temporal pond in La Guajira, northern Colombia. Hitherto, it has been reported from Argentina, Paraguay, and Brazil. This is the first record of this species in Colombia, its northermost finding in South America, and the fourth locality in which this species has been recorded from. *Mesocyclops paranaensis* can be distinguished from its closest congeners by a unique combination of the characters of the female, including: 1) leg 4 intercoxal sclerite with two large, acute projections; 2) P3, P4 intercoxal sclerite caudal surface lightly pilose; 3) seminal receptacle with narrow lateral arms and weakly convex anterior margin; 4) second antennary endopodite with seven setae, and insertion of antennary exopodal seta with adjacent spinules; 5) frontal surface of P1 basipodite ornamented with long spinules; 6) posterior margin of anal somite with continuous row of spinules; and 7) inner margin of caudal rami hirsute. The Colombian population shows some subtle morphological differences with respect to previous reports.

Resumen
El copépodo ciclopoide de agua dulce *Mesocyclops paranaensis* Dussart & Frutos, 1986 fue encontrado en un pequeño estanque temporal al norte de La Guajira. Hasta ahora, esta especie había sido registrada en Paraguay, Argentina y Brasil. Este es el primer registro de esta especie sudamericana en Colombia, su registro más septentrional en América del Sur, y la cuarta localidad en la que se registra. *Mesocyclops paranaensis* se puede distinguir de sus congéneres más cercanos por una combinación única de caracteres que incluyen: 1) esclerito intercoxal de la pata 4 con dos grandes proyecciones puntiagudas, 2) esclerito intercoxal de la pata 3 y pata 4 ligeramente piloso, 3) receptáculo seminal con brazos laterales estrechos y margen anterior débilmente convexo, 4) segundo segmento endopodal de la antena con siete setas, inserción de la seta exopodal de la antena con espinulas, 5) superficie frontal del basipodito de la pata 1 ornamentada con largas espinulas, 6) posterior margen de la somita anal de la hembra con hileras continuas de espinulas y 7) margen interno de la rama caudal pilosa. Se proporciona una breve descripción de esta especie e ilustraciones de la población colombiana y se compara con sus congéneres más cercanos. Los especímenes de Colombia muestran algunas diferencias morfológicas con respecto a los reportes previos acerca de esta especie.

Palabras clave:
Mesocyclops; Guajira; biodiversidad; zooplancton de agua dulce; estanque temporal; distribución; región Neotropical; nuevo registro.

Keywords:
Mesocyclops; Guajira; biodiversity; freshwater zooplankton; temporary pond; distribution; Neotropical region; new record.
Introduction

The widespread freshwater cyclopoid copepod genus *Mesocyclops* Sars, 1914 can be found in a wide variety of freshwater habitats, including temporal and permanent ponds, lakes, rivers, swamps (Holyńska et al. 2003, Alekseev et al. 2013, Papa and Holyńska 2013, Fuentes-Reinés et al. 2013), and even coastal hiposaline ponds (Suárez-Morales et al. 1999). It is considered as a cosmopolitan group with greater affinity for tropical areas, especially in eutrophic water bodies (Luong et al. 2020). This genus is one of the most speciose in the subfamily Cyclopinae; with nearly 80 valid species known (Papa & Holyńska 2013, Tran & Holyńska 2015), only 21 have been reported from the Neotropical region (Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006, Suárez-Morales et al. 2020). Of these, only six have been hitherto recorded from Colombia: *Mesocyclops aspericornis* (Daday, 1906), *M. brasiliannus* Kiefer, 1933, *M. longisetus* (Thiébaud, 1912), *M. meridianus* (Kiefer, 1926), *M. reidae* Petkovski, 1986, and *M. ellipticus* Kiefer, 1936.

*Mesocyclops paranaensis*, originally reported as *M. meridianus* and *M. ellipticus* has been recorded from Paraguay and Brazil respectively (Lowndes 1934, Dussart & Frutos, 1986, Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006). *Mesocyclops paranaensis* is restricted to the Neotropical region (Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006, Suárez-Morales et al. 2020).

The aim of this contribution is to document the first record of *M. paranaensis* for Colombia, which expands its known distributional range in South America, and also to provide comparative morphological data and illustrations of the Colombian specimens.

Material and method

Biological samples were obtained from a small temporary pond in the northern part of La Guajira-Colombia (11°16’24.67”N, 73°07’22.92”W). Qualitative surveys were performed during October and November 2018. Environmental parameters were measured with a WTW 3111 conductivity meter gear. Water samples were obtained using a bucket of 65 L, filtered with a 55μm mesh size plankton net to obtain concentrates of 500 mL that were fixed and preserved in 96% ethanol. In the laboratory, samples were stained with Bengal rose and concentrated to a volume of 50 mL. A Bogorov chamber was used to sort and count copepods, with the aid of a stereo microscope; copepods were taxonomically examined under a compound optical microscope in a drop of glycerol. Voucher specimens of *M. paranaensis* were deposited at the Centro de Colecciones Biológicas held at the Universidad del Magdalena, Colombia (CBUMAG:MEI:0827) where they are available for consultation and/or further examination.

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**Results**

**ORDER CYCLOPOIDA BURMEISTER, 1835**

**FAMILY CYCLOPIDAE RAFINESQUE, 1815**

**SUBFAMILY CYCLOPIDAE RAFINESQUE, 1815**

**GENUS MESOCYCLOPS SARS, 1914**

*Mesocyclops paranaensis* Dussart & Frutos, 1986, p. 312, fig. 46-50

*Mesocyclops meridianus* in Lowndes (1934: p. 80, 107)

**Material examined:** 7 adult female specimens collected by one of us (JMF-R) from an ephemeral pond located in La Guajira, northern Colombia (11°24’32,70”N, 73°03’45,75”W) during October and November 2018.

**Morphology.** Body length of Colombian female specimens = 1064 –1148 μm (n = 7, average length = 1122 μm) (Fig. 2A). Body slender, with robust anteriorly rounded prosome; fifth pedigerous somite lightly pilose. Antennules 17-segmented (Fig. 2B), two distal segments with serrate hyaline membrane (Fig. 2C), distal half of hyaline membrane on last segment with three strong denticles forming deep notch (Figs. 1B, 2C); length ratio of segments 16/17 = 1.03. Antenna composed of basipodite and 3-segmented endopodite (Fig. 3D). Frontal surface of basipodite with several spine rows (Fig. 1C). Antennary Enp 2 with 7 setae (arrowheads in Fig. 3D), 4 of them long, inserted distolaterally; remaining 3 setae short, slender on medial position (Fig. 3D). Antennary Enp3 with 7 setae, 4 of them thicker than remaining 3 (Fig. 1M). Antennary exopod represented by single strong pinnate seta (arrow, Fig. 3D); exopod insertion point in the frontal surface of coxobasis with spinules.

Mandible gnathobase with three strong and four slender teeth plus dorsal seta with pinnate inner margin (Fig. 1A); as usual in genus, mandibular palp with 2 long and single short setae.

Urosome 5-segmented, ventral genital double somite smooth, expanded proximally (Fig. 3E), seminal receptacle weakly convex (arrow, Fig. 3C) with narrow lateral arms. Posterior margin of anal somite with continuous row of spinules dorsoventrally (Fig.1I); caudal rami 2.8 times as long as wide, inner margin hirsute (Fig. 1I). Lateralmost terminal caudal seta 3 times as long as lateral...
caudal seta, lateral median terminal caudal seta 1.4 times as long as medialmost terminal caudal seta, medial median terminal caudal seta 1.2 times as long as urosome, dorsal caudal seta as long as lateralmost terminal caudal seta.

Maxilla (Fig. 1D) and maxilliped (Fig. 1E) structure and armature typical of genus (Suárez-Morales & Gutiérrez-Aguirre 2001).

P1–P4 EXP and ENP 3-segmented. Inner basipodal margin of P1 with short, strong spine barely reaching beyond distal margin of first endopodal segment (Figs. 1F, 2D, 3A), frontal surface of basipodite ornamented with long spinules (Fig. 1F), intercoxal sclerite of P1-P2 caudally smooth; caudal surface of P3, P4 sparsely pilose (Fig 1H, 1L). Intercoxal sclerite of P4 with pair of large, acute projections (Figs. 1H, 2E, 3B). P4ENP3 2.25 times as long as wide, terminal spines subequal (Fig. 1G, 3B). Pediger 5 laterally pilose, P5 typical of genus, with relatively long proximal seta (Figs. 1J, 2F). P6 with two short spiniform elements plus one long seta (Fig. 1K).

Discussion

The morphology of the seven adult female specimens from La Guajira, Colombia agrees with previous descriptions and illustrations of the species (Dussart & Frutos 1986, Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006, Suárez-Morales et al. 2020).

Mesocyclops paranaensis can be separated from its closest congeners by a unique combination of characters including: 1) leg 4 intercoxal sclerite with two large, acute projections, 2) P3, P4 intercoxal sclerite caudally slightly pilose 3) seminal receptacle with narrow lateral arms and anterior margin weakly convex, 4) antennary endopodite-2 with seven setae and insertion of antennary exopodal seta with spinules, 5) frontal surfaces of P1 basipodite ornamented with long spinules, 6) posterior margin of female anal somite with continuous row of spinules, and 7) inner margin of caudal ramus hirsute. These distinctive traits are present in our Colombian specimens.

Figure 1. Mesocyclops paranaensis Dussart & Frutos, 1986, adult female from ephemeral pond, northern Colombia. A. mandible blade. B. antennule, last segment showing serrate hyaline membrane. C. antennary basipodite, frontal view. D. maxilla with endopodal setae arrowed. E. maxilliped. F. P1 inner basipodal spiniform seta. G. P4 ENP3. H. P4 intercoxal sclerite, caudal view. I. caudal rami and posterior margin of anal somite, dorsal view. J. P5. K. P6. L. P3 intercoxal sclerite. M. distal setae of third antennary exopodal segment. Scale bars: A, J = 25 μm, B, C, G, H, M = 50 μm, F= 25 μm.
Figure 2. *Mesocyclops paranaensis* Dussart & Frutos, 1986, adult female from ephemeral pond, northern Colombia. A. Habitus, dorsal view. B. antennule. C. same, last segment showing hyaline membrane. D. P1 inner basipodal spine (arrowed). E. P4 intercoxal sclerite, caudal view, showing acute processes (arrowed). F. P5.

A few subtle differences were observed in our Colombian specimens: 1) the inner distal spine of P4ENP3 is slightly longer than the outer spine (Fig. 1G) vs. equally long spines in the Argentinian population (Dussart & Frutos 1986, fig. 46); 2) with a size range of 1064 – 1148 µm, our female specimens are noticeably smaller than those examined by Dussart and Frutos (1986) (1700 µm) and Holyńska et al (2003) (1200 – 1700 µm) from Argentina and by Lowndes (1934) (1244 – 1550µm) from Paraguay; 3) the P4ENP3 is 2.25 times as long as wide in our Colombian specimens (Figs. 1G, 3B) vs. 2.2 - 2.5 in the Argentinian populations (Dussart & Frutos 1986, fig. 46; Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 30A). Also, the lateral arms of the seminal receptacle are straight in the Argentinian population (Dussart & Frutos 1986, Fig. 49) and slightly curved in the Colombian specimens (Fig. 3C). In addition, this species appears to be uncommon within its distribution range and only a few specimens have been taxonomically examined (Holyńska et al. 2003); until sufficient comparative information is available, it is premature to suggest that the Colombian population could represent a distinct species. Instead, it is suggested that sampling efforts should be increased in the species distributional range to examine its intraspecific variability in more detail and thus define its taxonomic status within the genus.

The genus *Mesocyclops* was divided by Holyńska (2006) into seven clades. *Mesocyclops paranaensis* was included in the *annulatus*-clade which contains at least three other Neotropical species (i.e., *M. intermedius* Pesce, 1985; *M. ellipticus* Kiefer, 1936; *M. annulatus* (Wierzejski, 1892)), and one Afrotropical (*M. tenuisacculus* (G.O. Sars, 1927)).
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In the Neotropical region, *M. paranaensis* can be confused with *M. intermedius* and *M. annulatus* but they can be distinguished by the following characters: 1) the ornamentation of the posterior margin of the anal somite of *M. paranaensis* and *M. annulatus* consists of a dorsoventrally continuous spinule row (Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006, fig. 8F; present data, Fig. 2I; Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 26H) whereas a discontinuous pattern is present in *M. intermedius* (Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al., 2006, fig. 8E); 2) the inner margin of caudal rami is hirsute in both *M. paranaensis* and *M. annulatus* (Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006, fig. 8F; present data, Fig. 1I; Holyńska et al. 2003, figs. 26G) vs. a few scattered hair-like elements found in *M. intermedius* (Gutiérrez-Aguirre et al. 2006, fig. 8E; Suárez-Morales et al. 2020, fig. 21.25 U); 3) the antennary Enp2 of both *M. paranaensis* and *M. intermedius* are armed with 7 setae (Holyńska et al. 2003; present data, Fig. 3D) vs. 9 such setae in *M. annulatus* (Holyńska et al. 2003); 4) inner spine on P4EXP3 almost as long as the outer spine in *M. paranaensis* (Dussart & Frutos 1986, fig. 46; Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 30H; present data, fig. 3B) and *M. intermedius* (Pesce 1985, fig. 64) whereas in *M. annulatus* they are unequal in length (Holyńska et al. 2003, figs. 27J); 5) frontal surface of P1 basipodite ornamented with long spinules in *M. paranaensis* (Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 30G; present data, Fig. 1F) and *M. intermedius* (Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 32G) whereas in *M. annulatus* the long spinules are absent (Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 27A); 6) length ratio of seta on proximal segment/distal seta on second segment on P5 less than 1 in *M. paranaensis* (Dussart & Frutos 1986, fig. 47; present data, Figs. 1J, 2F) and *M. annulatus* (Holyńska et al. 2003, fig. 31A)
fig. 26C) whereas in *M. intermedium* greater than 1 (Pesce 1985, fig. 60); 7) length/width ratio of caudal ramus is smaller in *M. paranaensis* (about 2.8 – 4.2, Hołyńska et al. 2003, fig. 30A; present data, fig. 3E), and *M. intermedium* (3.0, Pesce 1985, fig. 60; Hołyńska et al. 2003, fig. 32C) than in *M. annulatus* (5.0 – 5.5, Hołyńska et al. 2003, figs. 26H); and 8) *M. intermedium* is a smaller (520 – 610 µm) species (Pesce 1985) than *M. paranaensis* (1064 – 1770 µm, Dussart & Frutos 1986; Lowndes 1934; Hołyńska et al. 2003; present data) and *M. annulatus* (1300 – 2000 µm Hołyńska et al. 2003).

In the surveyed area, *M. paranaensis* was found associated to the aquatic vegetation (water temperature = 31.4 °C, conductivity 255 µS/cm, pH 7.68). The presence of *M. paranaensis* in adjacent areas seems very likely, so a wider distribution in South America might be expected. The diversity and distribution of this genus in the Neotropical region deserve further research.

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The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Rol de los autores / Authors Roles:

JFR, PEE: collected the samples and obtained the digital photos of the specimens. ESM: made the drawings. JFR, ES-M: identified the specimens and wrote the text.

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