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HOW TO DISTINGUISH THE FEMALES OF THE THREE EUROPEAN MYSTACIDES SPECIES

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Frequently, only females are taken of some caddisfly species. The females of most species of the European fauna are known and can be identified. However, the females of some genera can be difficult although progress has been made in recent years. There are still problems in genera such as *Hydropsyche*. The situation is similar in *Holocentropus*, *Glossosoma* and in some species-groups of *Hydroptila* and *Stactobia*. Nielsen's (1980) discussion of these problems from another aspect has helped me to solve some cases.

In some of my previous papers I have tried to present distinctive features for the above genera. Some Central European *Glossosoma* species were studied from this viewpoint (Ujvárosi et al. 1995). The *simulans* group of *Hydroptila* was studied and detailed figures given of its four species (Nógrádi 1994), and an attempt was made to clarify a southeastern *Stactobia* species which was incompletely known (Nógrádi & Uherkovich 1993).

Determination of the females of other genera and species groups can still cause difficulties. During the re-examination of *Mystacides* females I found clear-cut difference between each species. Malicky's (1983) Atlas did not distinguish them from each other. Two of these species were presented also by Kumanski (1988), but he did not mention the third European one. It is well known that the colour pattern of *M. longicornis* differs characteristically from that of *azurea* and *nigra*. In most cases the females of *longicornis* can be identified by their pattern. But the freshly hatched adults do not have their definitive colouring while the blackish-metallic *nigra* or *azurea* can be very light or uncoloured. Their distinction from *M. longicornis* is not possible. Moreover, *M. nigra* and *azurea* cannot be distinguished even after the develop of full colouring.

In lateral view (Figs. 1, 4 and 7) they are similar, but their dorsal and ventral views differ characteristically. Most species of leptocerids show variation (e.g. members of the genera *Trienodes*, *Setodes*, *Ceraclea* etc.), but the range of these varieties do not overlap each other as in the case of the three *Mystacides* species. The figures show more than the detailed description.

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PHORESY IN AN ADULT TRICHOPTERAN

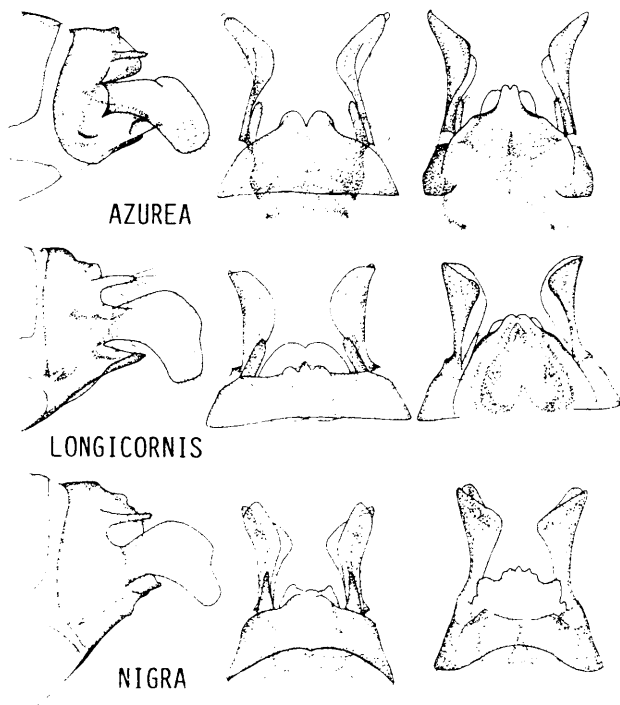
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During our research on the trichopteran fauna of the Rieti plain (North Latium, Italy) we found numerous males and females of *Limnephilus helveticus* Schmid in the spring system of S. Susanna (375 m a.s.l.). A female, collected on 9.6.1981, showed an interesting example of phoresy presented here in a drawing by Angelo Speziale. A brachycerous dipteran held on to the last tarsal segment of the middle left leg with the tibia and tarsus of its prothoracic leg. As far as we know, this is the only case of phoresy found in Italy in a flying trichopteran.

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