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The larva of *Ceraclea riparia* (Albarda, 1874) (Trichoptera: Leptoceridae)

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With 3 figures

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During a biomonitoring survey of the Krka River (SE Slovenia) specimens of the genus *Ceraclea* with cases resembling those of Molannidae were sampled. The collected pupa and adults clearly identified the unknown larvae as *C. riparia* (Albarda, 1874). Detected diagnostic characters enabled us to include *C. riparia* in the framework of contemporary keys (e.g. Wallace & al., 1990; Waringer & Graf, 1997) where *C. riparia* is keyed out together with *C. annulicornis* and *C. albimacula*/*C. albogutatta*. From the latter, *C. riparia* can be separated, among other features, by the metadorsum with 2-3 setae in each anterior-lateral group (Fig. 1), by the case which is composed of sand grains and shaped like a convex shield incorporating a central tube (Fig. 2) and by the light brown head markings consisting of longitudinal parietal bands and with well-defined muscle attachment spots (Fig. 3). *C. riparia* was only rarely collected at large cobbles (macrolithal) of the Krka River, the largest tributary of the Sava River with a pluvio-nival hydrographic regime. In Europe, according to Botosaneanu & Malicky (1978), the species is widespread and is lacking only in the Western Mediterranean, the West Balkan, in Great Britain, Northern Europe and the Caucasus. However, in many countries, especially those of Western Europe, the species is included in Red lists with status "endangered" or even "probably extinct". The reasons are probably found in the fact that the species occurs in large rivers, which are mostly heavily polluted or regulated in these countries. In addition, its microhabitat is very rare in lowland stretches of large rivers.

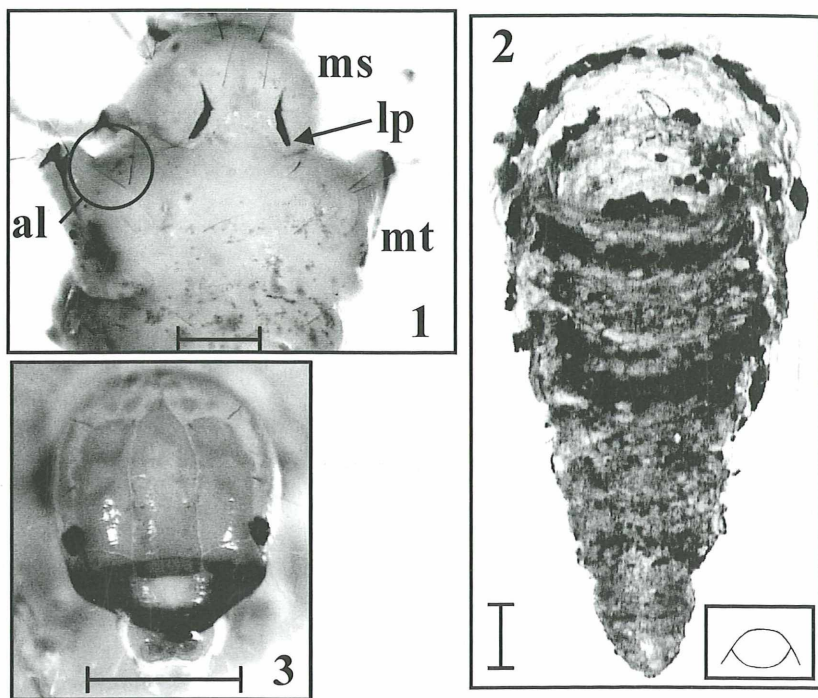


Fig. 1-3: *Ceraclea riparia*, final instar larva. 1: Meso- and metanotum, dorsal view; 2: Case, ventral view (insert: case cross section); 3: Head, frontal view. al = anterior-lateral setae on metanotum, lp = posterior-lateral projection on mesonotum, ms = mesonotum, mt = metanotum; Scale bars = 0.5 mm in Figs. 1 and 3, 1.0 mm in Fig. 2

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