

FEEDING OF ADULT CADDISFLIES

In my handbook article of 1973 (Handbuch der Zoologie, de Gruyter: Berlin) I summarized the scarce observations of feeding of adult caddisflies. T.Andersen (Fauna norv.B 30:54-55, 1982) has published some more observations. It is still something of a mystery. Almost all species have well-developed sucking mouthparts. In captivity they are willing to imbibe sweet liquids such as sugar bait, honeydew, honey and jam, sometimes they take enormous quantities, as I recently have observed in some Chaetopterygini species. But field observations are still scarce. I have collected the following field observations over the years, and would suggest to all workers to do the same and to publish them at occasion.

Austria, Lunz, Edlboden, 31.7.1975: Wormaldia copiosa (4♂, 3♀) found sucking honeydew of Periphyllus acericola (Walker) (Chaitophoridae) on leaves of Acer pseudoplatanus (Aceraceae).

Austria, Lunz, Maißzinken, 27.7.1975: Limnephilus germanus (1♀) found sucking on a flower of Pimpinella major (Apiaceae).

Austria, Turracherhöhe, Karmulde, 1900m, 30.7.1981: Drusus discolor (1♂) sucking on flowers of Veratrum album (Liliaceae); same place, 21.7.1981: Drusus monticola (1♀) and Anisogamus difformis (1♂) sucking on flowers of Peucedanum ostruthium (Apiaceae). - I have observed on many occasions hundreds of these species in several places, but never again feeding.

In an experiment, I put adults in a jar with willow twigs, covered by thick layers of honeydew produced by Tuberolachnus salignus Gmelin. Feeding was observed, and after about one day the specimens were preserved in ethanol. Their gut contents were later studied. Almost all of the specimens had particles in the gut which indicated the uptake of honeydew: fungal hyphae and insect hairs were found in Sericostoma flavicorne ♀, Polycentropus flavomaculatus ♀, Hydropsyche instabilis ♀, H.siltalai ♀ and Rhyacophila dorsalis ♂, ♀. In the latter also lepidopteran scales, algae and pollen grains were found; in H.siltalai in addition algae, fern spores and pollen grains of Apiaceae, Asteraceae and Rumex (Polygonaceae) which indicated additional flower visits.

I want to thank Mr.M.STELZL for the gut analysis, and Prof.Dr.F.P. MÜLLER and the late Prof.Dr.H.SZELEGIEWICZ for identification of the aphids.

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LIST OF RESEARCH WORKERS ON TRICHOPTERA

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Present interest: All families of Brazil; Immature stages of Brazil, adults of Rio de Janeiro State. Previously studied: Immature stages of Rio de Janeiro State. Geographical area: Rio de Janeiro State and adjacent areas. Willing to identify for other workers: Immature stages and cases, Brazilian regions.

Material wanted: Literature about Leptoceridae (taxonomy) and immature stages of South America (any family).

Information wanted: Occurrence and distribution of Leptoceridae in South America.

Other interests: Aquatic insects, esp.immature stages. Animal evolution and adaptations.

Remarks: Teaching general Zoology and Freshwater Biology. Starting now studies with adults of Leptoceridae and Hydropsychidae.

ZOBODAT - www.zobodat.at

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Trichoptera Newsletter](#)

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