

## Five new species of Polycentropodidae (Trichoptera) from Ecuador and Venezuela

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### ABSTRACT

Diagnoses, descriptions and illustrations of male genitalia are given for four new species of the *Polycentropus gertschi* group, *Polycentropus cressae* n. sp., *Polycentropus neblinensis* n. sp., *Polycentropus quadricuspidis* n. sp., and *Polycentropus silex* n. sp. The former two are from Venezuela and the latter two from Ecuador. In addition, a diagnosis, description and set of male genitalia illustrations are provided for *Polyplectropus beccus*, a new species from Ecuador. The generic placement of this species, while currently appropriate, may require reclassification pending completion of ongoing studies on Neotropical polycentropodids.

**Key words:** Trichoptera, Polycentropodidae, *Polycentropus*, *Polyplectropus*, caddisfly, new species, Neotropics, Ecuador, Venezuela

### INTRODUCTION

The cosmopolitan caddisfly family Polycentropodidae comprises approximately 600 recognized species (ITIS 2002, Morse 2001). As currently defined, the genera *Polycentropus sensu stricto* and *Polyplectropus* are global in distribution and include 158 and 145 species, respectively (ITIS 2002). Flint et al. (1999) recorded 64 species of *Polycentropus sensu lato* (they did not separate *Polycentropus sensu stricto* from possible *Plectrocnemia*) and 42 species of *Polyplectropus* from the Neotropics. Recent investigations have added 6 *Polycentropus* and 10 *Polyplectropus* to the known Neotropical fauna (Chamorro-Lacayo 2003, Holzenthal & Almeida 2003, Chamorro-Lacayo & Holzenthal 2004, Flint & Sykora 2004). Ongoing investigation in Central and South America will more than double the known Neotropical *Polyplectropus* (Chamorro-Lacayo & Holzenthal 2004) and add more than 2 dozen *Polycentropus* (Holzenthal & Almeida 2003).