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Distribution of some Calanoida (Crustacea: Copepoda) from the Yucatán Peninsula, Belize and Guatemala

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Abstract: Southern Mexico and Central America have many water bodies of different morphology and water chemistry with an interesting zooplankton fauna, originating from North or South America. A set of 63 samples, taken in 2005 and 2008, from water bodies of the Yucatan Peninsula karst, Belize and Guatemala, were studied for the content of calanoid copepods. Old and recent literature was used to determine animals to species level. Drawings were prepared with a microscope and a camera lucida. A total of 32 samples with totally six species contained calanoid copepods: one estuarine pseudodiaptomid and five freshwater diaptomids. *Pseudodiaptomus marshi* was found at different salinities. It is confirmed that the commonest diaptomids in the Yucatan Peninsula are *Arctodiaptomus dorsalis* and *Mastigodiaptomus nesus*. The former was also recorded from Lake Amatitlan. *Mastigodiaptomus nesus* is as widespread as *A. dorsalis* but it is absent from the Lake Peten area in Guatemala. *Mastigodiaptomus reidae* was found in two shallow habitats, these specimens differ from those from the type locality by having a set of peculiar large spine-like processes on the last thoracic and the urosome segments of the females. *Leptodiaptomus siciloides* was found only in Lake Ayarza with high salinity. *Prionodiaptomus colombiensis* occurred in the highlands of Guatemala in Lago de Güija and in the Peten area in Laguna Sacpuy. We contributed with our occurrence records to a better knowledge of the geographic distribution of some calanoid copepods. Morphological findings in some species are of value for taxonomic differentiation between species. Rev. Biol. Trop. 60 (1): 187-202. Epub 2012 March 01.

Key words: Central America, zooplankton, calanoid copepods, Pseudodiaptomidae, Diaptomidae, geographic distribution.

Mexico, Central America and the Caribbean, as a bridge between North and South America, host many species from two distinct biogeographical regions, the Nearctic and Neotropical. It is also called Neotropical-Caribbean (NCAR) (Dussart & Defaye 2001). Zooplankton represents an important community to transfer matter and energy between producers and consumers in food webs, thus shaping the pelagic ecosystem. Copepods make up a major portion of the biomass and productivity of freshwater ecosystems (Williamson & Reid 2001). Nine genera with 26 species of diaptomid copepods (Crustacea) are registered (Suárez-Morales *et al.* 2005), five genera from the Nearctic, one from South America, two NCAR

genera, and one (*Diaptomus* s.l.) with unclear taxonomical classification. From the tropical Yucatan Peninsula and Guatemala three genera with seven species and one pseudodiaptomid copepod are known.

Decades ago Dussart *et al.* (1984) considered the Central American region as “well studied” for the freshwater copepods. Although, new species have been described, especially from Mexico (Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez 2000), Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* (2008a) showed that there are still many overlooked/cryptic species of Diaptomidae in the region to be morphologically described. But, there are still many water bodies to be sampled, for instance, Yucatan cenotes and lakes in adjacent

areas (Alcocer & Bernal-Brooks 2010). So it was a good opportunity to look at the samples from the Yucatan Peninsula, Belize and Guatemala that were presented to me and to see what calanoid species they contain. In this contribution the results of the extensive sampling of calanoid copepods of inland waters are presented, and comparative morphological and distributional comments about the species are provided herein.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

In 2005 and 2008 Burkhard Scharf, Liseth Pérez and co-workers from the Institute of

Environmental Geology of the University of Braunschweig, Germany sampled freshwater habitats in the Yucatan lowlands of Mexico, Belize and Guatemala (Pérez *et al.* 2010). The aim of their project was to use ostracods from the Yucatán Peninsula as indicators of past environmental and climate change. Sampled sites included: lakes, sinkholes, brackish water lagoons, rivers in the lowlands, and lakes in the Guatemalan highlands (Fig. 1, Tables 1, 2).

Water samples to determine physico-chemical variables as temperature, pH, conductivity and oxygen were taken with a Ruttner-sampler and measured with a WTW multisensor equipment. Qualitative samples of plankton in the

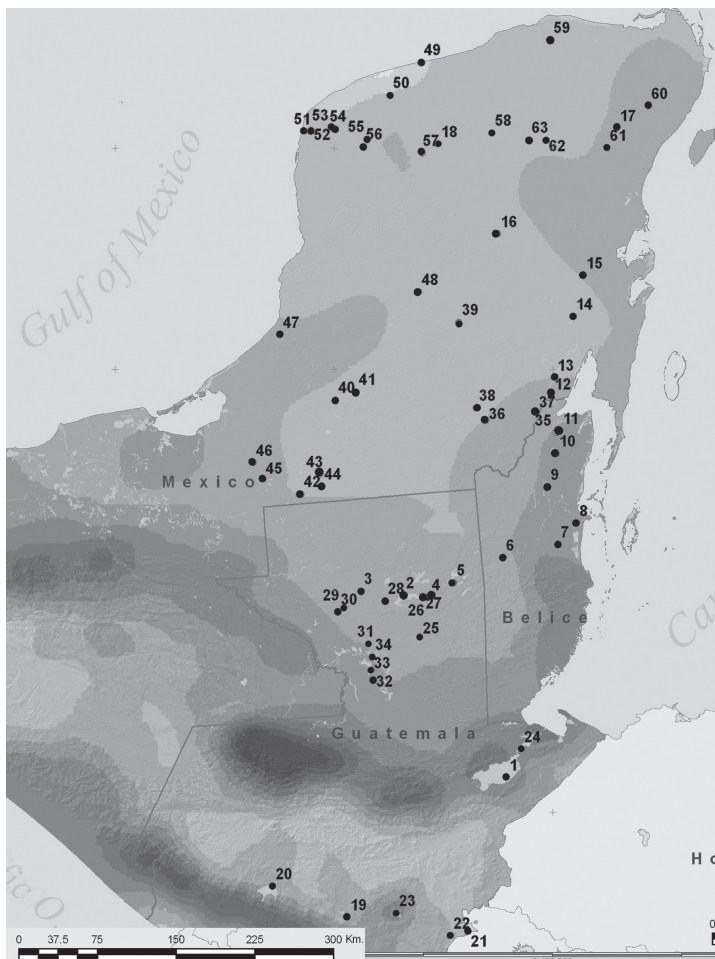


Fig. 1. Sampled water bodies in 2005 and 2008, their numbers and geographical position.

TABLE 1
List of sampled lakes, their geographic position and some morphometric, limnochemical data and found freshwater calanoid copepod species

Area	ID-Nr.	Name of waterbody	Coordinates		Altitude [m asl]	Depth [m]	Surface area [km ²]	Conductivity [μS/cm]	P _m	Ad	Mn	P _c	L _s
			N	W									
Guatemala highlands	19	Amatitlán	14°26'03.7"	90°32'58.6"	1200	23	15.2	630		X			
	20	Atitlán	14°43'57.9"	91°09'16.6"	1560	340	126	465					
	21	Gujiá	14°14'53.0"	89°32'50.2"	433	21	45	206				X	
	22	Atescampa	14°13'01.1"	89°41'39.2"	587	2	1.1	283					
	23	Ayarza	14°26'02.0"	90°08'10.2"	1414	250	14	1 772					X
Guatemalan lowlands	1	Izabal	15°27'18.0"	89°06'39.0"	4	15	645	215	X	X			
	2	Petén Itza	17°00'21.3"	89°51'14.3"	115	165	100	568		X			
	3	Perdida	17°04'09.5"	90°12'29.2"	75	4	11	232					
	4	Macaniché	16°58'16.3"	89°37'53.7"	165	80	2.5	850					
	5	Yaxhá	17°03'54.9"	89°24'29.7"	219	22	7	232		X			
	25	Oquevix	16°39'18.2"	89°44'27.4"	148	10	1.6	238		X			
	26	Salpeten	16°58'38.2"	89°40'30.9"	114	38	2.9	4 310		X			
	28	Sacpuy	16°58'32.4"	90°00'52.2"	122	6	3.5	285				X	
	29	La Gloria	16°56'51.0"	90°22'10.3"	132	65	3.6	187		X			
	30	San Diego	16°55'08.3"	90°25'21.6"	134	8	3.8	179					
	32	Las Pozas	16°20'15.1"	90°10'03.6"	146	35	2	292		X			
	33	Petexbatun	16°25'10.3"	90°10'48.9"	115	40	5.6	568					
	34	El Rosario	16°31'31.4"	90°09'36.2"	117	3	0.02	1 019					

TABLE 1 (Continued)
List of sampled lakes, their geographic position and some morphometric, limnochemical data and found freshwater calanoid copepod species

Area	ID-Nr.	Name of waterbody	Coordinates		Altitude [m asl]	Depth [m]	Surface area [km ²]	Conductivity [μS/cm]	Pm	Ad	Mn	Pc	Ls
			N	W									
Mexican lowlands	12	Milagros	18°30'49.8"	88°25'37.5"	1	4	3.1	2 720					
	13	Bacalar	18°39'53.3"	88°23'22.4"	1	16	51	1221	X		X		
	14	Nohbec	19°08'47.3"	88°10'29.3"	1	0.6	8.5	1231		X			
	15	Ocom	19°28'27.2"	88°03'15.2"	1	10	0.25	774		X			
	16	Chichancanab	19°52'48.7"	88°46'00.1"	2	14	5.1	2 060			X		
	17	Punta Laguna	20°38'52.5"	87°38'10.8"	3	20	0.9	754			X		
	18	Yalahau	20°39'25.6"	89°13'10.8"	2	11	0.25	2 350			X		
	36	San José Aguilar	18°22'11.8"	89°00'41.8"	107	3	2	488			X		
	37	Sabanita	18°24'03.2"	88°34'20.6"	38	3	0.02	139					
	38	Chacan-Bata	18°28'42.1"	89°05'13.9"	91	–	2.9	146		X			
Belizcan lowlands	39	Chacan-Lara	19°11'21.8"	89°10'17.0"	90	3	1.2	174					
	41	Jobal	18°41'40.7"	90°06'45.4"	74	3		241					
	42	San Francisco Mateos	17°53'55.9"	90°39'22.8"	52	5	0.1	474		X	X		
	43	La Miseriosa	18°02'48.9"	90°28'47.3"	57	6	5	1 411					
	45	Cayucon	18°02'34.3"	90°58'33.0"	69	8	2	127			X		
	61	Coba	20°29'40.2"	87°44'19.2"	7	–	0.35	1 213			X		
	8	Almond Hill Lagoon	17°27'51.0"	88°18'42.4"	1	2	1.5	1 715	X		X		
	9	Crooked Tree Lagoon	17°46'54.0"	88°31'49.1"	2	3	23	330		X	X		
	10	Honey Camp Lagoon	18°02'44.3"	88°26'05.6"	1	8	3.9	1 481					

Pm *Pseudodiaptomus marshi*, **Ad** *Arctodiaptomus dorsalis*, **Mn** *Mastigodiaptomus nesus*, **Pc** *Prionodiaptomus colombiensis*, **Ls** *Leptodiaptomus siciloides*

TABLE 2

List of sampled waterbodies others than lakes, their geographic position and some morphometric, limnochemical data and found freshwater calanoid copepod species

Aquatic environment	ID-Nr.	Name of waterbody	Coordinates		Altitude [m asl]	Depth [m]	Surface area [km ²]	Conductivity [μS/cm]	<i>Pm</i>	<i>Ad</i>	<i>Mn</i>	<i>Mr</i>
			N	W								
Cenotes	50	Xlakah	21°05'27.6"	89°35'53.3"	6	45	<0.01	1 452				
	52	Peten de Monos	20°50'59.6"	90°19'13.8"	25	1.5	<0.01	3 670				
	54	San Francisco Kana	20°51'22.2"	90°07'04.5"	3	---	0.01	1 751				
	55	San Ignacio Chochola	20°45'00.9"	89°50'03.2"	7	4	<0.01	2 110				
	56	Chenhá	20°41'23.0"	89°52'34.5"	3	2	<0.01	2 520				
	57	Timul	20°35'38.8"	89°21'23.7"	9	---	0.03	1 465				
	58	Yokdzonot	20°42'24.6"	88°43'52.0"	13	45	<0.01	949				
	60	Juárez	20°48'09.6"	87°20'23.8"	14	25	0.03	643			X	
	62	Tekom	20°36'08.1"	88°15'52.5"	18	1.5	<0.01	958				
	63	Ya'ax'ex	20°37'15.4"	88°24'56.0"	27	47	<0.01	793				
Coastal water bodies	11	Little Belize	18°13'36.5"	88°22'57.4"	7	11.1	0.06	5 960				
	35	Progreso	18°13'04.4"	88°24'55.3"	5	3.2	7.2	2 040	X			
	49	Rosada	21°20'11.3"	89°18'01.9"	4	0.5	2.3	55 300				
	51	Celestun	20°51'20.8"	90°22'39.2"	14	1.5	28	38 200				
	24	Rio Dulce	15°40'25.3"	88°57'49.3"	4	7	---	192		X		
Rivers	27	Ixtlú	16°58'27.3"	89°53'27.8"	110	1	---	1 025				
	31	Subin	16°38'11.6"	90°11'00.3"	141	1	---	720				
	44	Cuba	17°56'55.4"	90°28'39.1"	80	0.5	---	2 040				
	46	Candelaria	18°11'02.4"	91°02'59.6"	44	1.5	---	1 564				
Wetland	47	Guerrero	19°12'41.6"	90°43'47.6"	5	1	---	2 700				
	48	Jamolún	19°27'58.3"	89°29'45.1"	115	1.5	---	2 520				X
Ponds	6	Belize 1	17°18'59.8"	88°45'30.8"	77	1.5	<0.01	192				
	7	Belize 2	17°18'17.8"	88°29'18.2"	33	1	<0.01	244				
	40	Silvituc	18°38'33.0"	90°17'39.8"	59	2.5	<0.01	183			X	
	25	near Oquevix	20°52'03.6"	90°08'14.9"	179	1	<0.01	168				X
	59	Loché	21°25'04.3"	88°08'30.8"	20	1	<0.01	4340				X

Pm *Pseudodiaptomus marslii*, **Ad** *Arctodiaptomus dorsalis*, **Mn** *Mastigodiaptomus nesus*, **Mr** *Mastigodiaptomus cf. reidae*

open water and the littoral were taken using standard plankton net with 100 μ m mesh size, fixed and preserved in 4% formalin. In the laboratory, adult calanoid copepods were sorted under an Olympus dissecting microscope, and identified to the species level with an Olympus CH 2 microscope. The following literature was used: Light (1939), Bowman (1986), Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales (2000), Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez (2000, 2001), and Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* (2008b). Drawings were prepared with the Olympus CH 2 microscope, and a camera lucida attached to the microscope at 40x magnification. The salinity classification of the lakes follows Cowardin *et al.* (1979).

RESULTS

Tables 1 and 2, list species of calanoid copepods from the lakes and other water bodies, like cenotes, ponds, coastal water bodies and rivers, in Yucatan Peninsula, Guatemala and Belize, arranged according to Pérez *et al* (2010). Only 32 of the 63 sampled water bodies contained calanoid copepods. Fig. 1 shows the sampled water bodies, their numbers and geographical position and figure 2 shows the geographical distribution of the species found in the sampled area. *Pseudodiaptomus marshi* Wright, 1936 occurred in four water bodies with fresh to oligosaline waters at nearly sea level (Fig. 2c). Our specimens from Lago Iza-bal, Progreso Lagoon and Almond Hill Lagoon

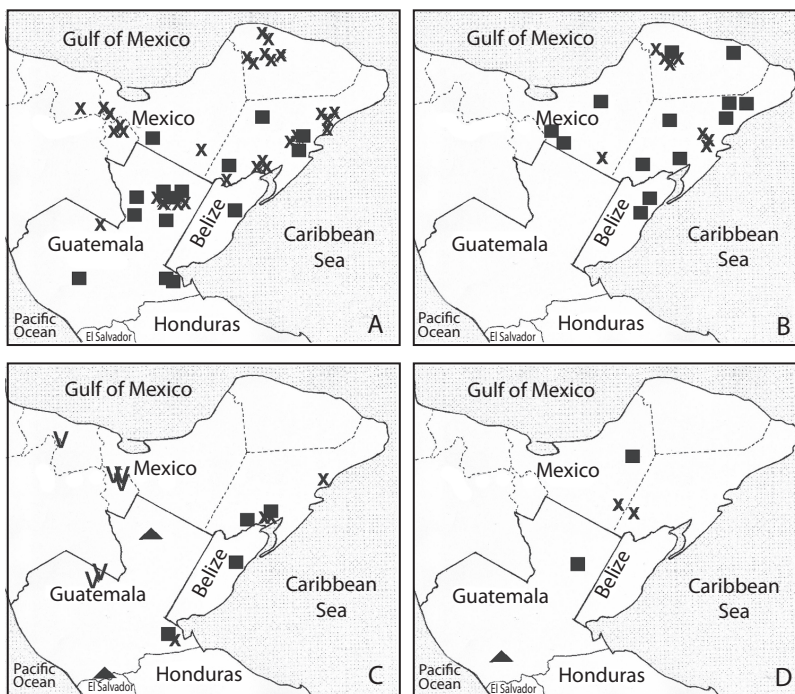


Fig. 2. Distributional patterns of the calanoid copepods found in our samples. a) *Arctodiaptomus dorsalis*, records from other authors (X) (Brinson & Nordlie 1975, Deevey 1980, Suárez 1991, Flores-Nava 1994, Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales 2001, Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008a, b). b) *Mastigodiaptomus nesus*, records from other authors (X) (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008a). c) *Pseudodiaptomus marshi* (rectangles) and *Prionodiaptomus colombiensis* (triangles), records from other authors (X for *P. marshi* and V for *P. colombiensis*) (Brinson & Nordlie 1975, Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales 2001, Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008a, b). d) *Leptodiaptomus siciloides* (triangles) and *Mastigodiaptomus cf. reidae* (rectangles), data from other authors (X for *M. reidae*) (Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez 2000, Elías-Gutiérrez 2008b).

possess an anterolateral knob with many spines and hairs on the right side of female's genital somite (Fig. 3).

Arctodiaptomus dorsalis (Marsh, 1907) was found in 14 water bodies that lie below an altitude of 200m.a.s.l., and in Lago Amatitlán (Guatemala) at 1 195m.a.s.l. (Fig. 2a). One of these 14 water bodies (Lago Salpeten, Guatemala) is oligohaline.

Mastigodiaptomus nesus (Bowman, 1986) was in 13 water bodies in the Yucatán Peninsula at altitudes below 100m.a.s.l. (Fig. 2b). Six lakes of this cluster are oligohaline. *A. dorsalis* and *M. nesus* co-occurred in three lakes.

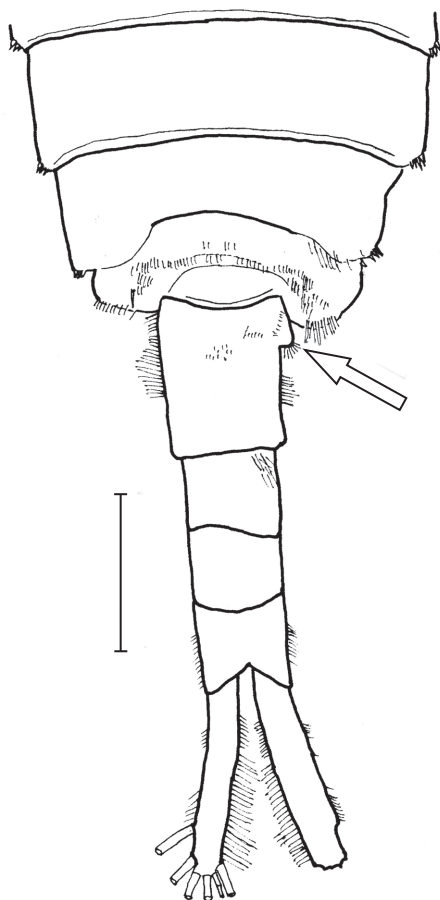


Fig. 3. *Pseudodiaptomus marshi*, female last pedigerous somites and urosome, scale bar 0.1 mm, arrow indicates anterolateral knob.

In a pool and a wetland area (Fig. 2d) animals were found that resemble very much *Mastigodiaptomus reidae* Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez, 2000. The two water bodies contain fresh water and lie at an altitude of about 100m.a.s.l. Morphologically there are some differences between our specimens and *M. reidae*, especially in the female (Fig. 4 a,b). On the not well developed border between pediger four and five on the posterior surface on each side of the dorsal process we found two long, flexible spine-like processes, their length is about 25 and 30 μ m. The dorsal process or hump we found only in some specimens. Spine-like processes on left and right thoracic wing are on the same position as described in *M. reidae*, but are larger (about 25 μ m) in our specimens. About this same length was found for the two spines on the anterior third of the long urosome. The caudal rami have an inner and outer setose margin. Other morphological features are as

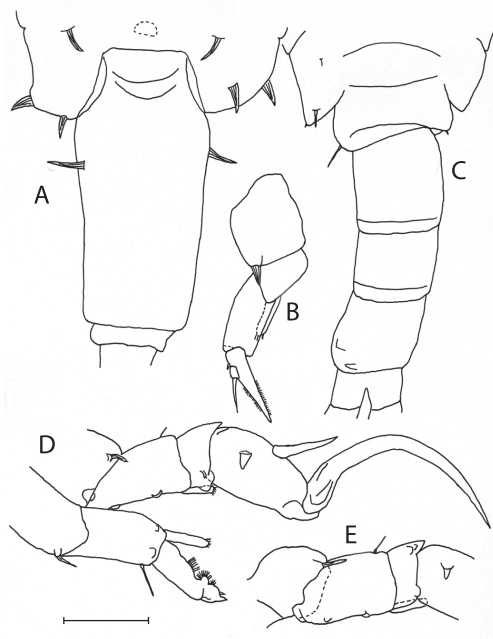


Fig. 4. *Mastigodiaptomus cf. reidae*: a) last pedigerous somite and genital somite of female, b) left P₅ of female, c) last pedigerous somite and urosome of male, d) P₅ of male, e) part of right P₅ of male (another specimen) showing the ornamentation of exopodite 1, scale bar 0.1mm.

in *M. reidae*. The male (Fig. 4 c-e) does not differ from the description of *M. reidae*. Most morphological differences between *M. reidae* and our specimens are small and probably lie within the species range. Only the spine-like processes on the female's pediger 4/5 were remarkable and never seen in other specimens. Normally on this position one can find short fine hairs in many species. The morphologic variability in the *M. cf. reidae* females was conservative into and between surveyed populations (Oquevix pond and Jamolún wetland).

Prionodiptomus colombiensis (Thiebaud, 1912) was found in two freshwater bodies in Guatemala at altitudes of 433m.a.s.l. and 206m.a.s.l. (Fig. 2c), respectively. In our specimens from Lake Güija we found, on the females genital segment, a fold on the ventro-posterior region that is crescent shaped (Fig. 5, double-arrow).

Leptodiptomus siciloides (Lilljeborg, 1889 in De Guerne & Richard) was found only in one highland lake (Fig. 2d) at an altitude of 1 414m.a.s.l. with oligosaline water.

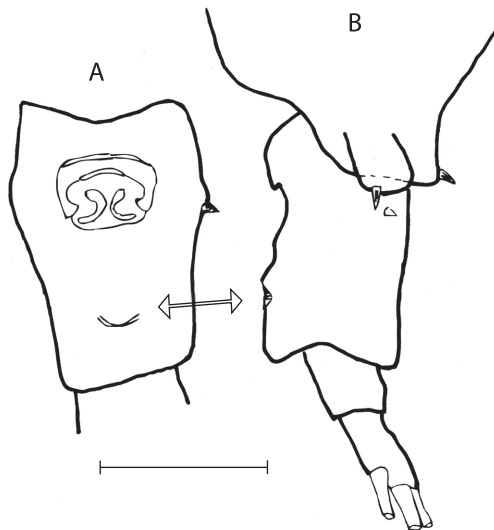


Fig. 5. Ventral (a) and lateral (b) view of genital segment of female *Prionodiptomus colombiensis* with crescent shaped fold (arrow), scale bar 0.1mm.

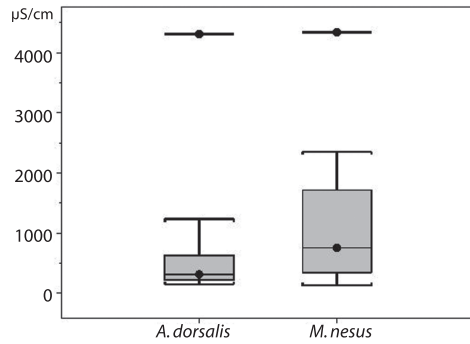


Fig. 6. Box plots of *Arctodiptomus dorsalis* and *Mastigodiptomus nesus* and the conductivity of the sampled water bodies.

Conductivity ranges of the water bodies where *A. dorsalis* and *M. nesus* were found, are shown in figure 6.

DISCUSSION

An interpretation of some limnological and morphological characteristics, physical and chemical properties of the sampled water bodies waters has already been published (Pérez *et al.* 2010). From the 63 samples, taken in 2005 and 2008, only 32 contained calanoid copepods. The reasons why nearly 50% of the samples had no Calanoida can be numerous: wrong season, inadequate water chemistry, not enough food, predation, among others. Nine out of the 32 water bodies with Calanoida were sampled before by other authors. From the sampled region, one pseudodiptomid and nine diaptomid species were known. We found one pseudodiptomid and five diaptomid species, none of them was new, but we could add some new occurrences.

The taxonomy of the Mexican species of Diptomidae have made great progress in the last decades (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008b), but still some species complexes with overlooked species, as in *A. dorsalis* and *Mastigodiptomus albuquerqueensis*, have to be cleared (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008a). Therefore it

is worth to note morphological differences in some species.

Pseudodiaptomus marshi (Wright, 1936): is a widespread species in estuaries on the Atlantic coast of Central and South America, extending South to Vitória, Espírito Santo, Brazil (20°16'S) (Pereira & Loureiro Fernandes 2000, Santos Silva 2008). Brinson & Nordlie (1975) reported it as its Pacific sibling *P. culebrensis* from Lago Izabal.

The estuarine species *P. marshi* can live in a wide range of salinity, from fresh water (Lago Izabal) to salinities up to 42ppt (Medeiros *et al.* 2006) in Northeastern Brazil. In the Yucatan Peninsula, the distribution was found mostly well inside the coastline (e.g. Laguna Bacalar), that might have resulted from stranding and subsequent adaptation to freshwater during a marine regression in the Bacalar formation (Suárez-Morales 2003).

Our results of the anterolateral knob on the females genital somite in *P. marshi*, is in accordance with the material from Costa Rica and Belize (Walter 1989), for which the genital somite of specimens from Central America is asymmetrical, whereas from West Indies and South America it is symmetrical. Also Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* (2008b) showed an asymmetrical genital somite from Mexican specimens, among others from Laguna de Bacalar.

Arctodiaptomus dorsalis (Marsh, 1907): Its core range lies in tropical and subtropical lowlands bordering the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea, from the Southern United States through Central America and Northern South America, plus the Greater Antilles (Reid 2007). In North America it extends its range by human agency.

In the studied area, it has a somewhat disjunct distribution: in the Eastern coastal zone of Quintana Roo, in the North-western part of the State of Yucatán round the city of Mérida, the Petén area in Guatemala, and the South-East of Tabasco. A similar picture for the distribution in the Yucatan Peninsula is drawn by Suárez-Morales (2003). He also discusses the dispersal through geological times.

According to Schmitter-Soto *et al.* (2002) *A. dorsalis* is the dominant copepod in the central epicontinental portion of the Yucatan Peninsula and is substituted in other portion by *Mastigodiaptomus* ssp. Neighboring, there are some isolated occurrences in Campeche and a cluster in Tamaulipas. In Guatemala *A. dorsalis* is widely distributed in the Petén district (Deevey *et al.* 1980, this study) and in Lago Izabal and Río Dulce (Brinson & Nordlie 1975, this study). Isolated occurrences were found in Lago Lachuá near the Mexican border (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008a). The presence in Lake Amatitlán (this study) was a great surprise. But only two males and two females were found. Nearly 100 years before (1910) *Mastigodiaptomus albuquerqueensis* (Herrick, 1895) and *M. amatitlanensis* (Wilson, 1941) were reported (Juday 1915, Wilson 1941). Only more intensive sampling can show, if there is a real change in species and if the massive eutrophication of the lake favored *A. dorsalis* and excluded the *Mastigodiaptomus* species.

Mastigodiaptomus nesus (Bowman, 1986): It is distributed in the Yucatán Peninsula (Suárez-Morales 2003) and the Northern Caribbean Islands (Bowman 1986, Reid & Hribar 2006). In the Yucatán Peninsula it shows a scattered distribution in the lowlands of México and Belize. We found it in coastal lagoons, lakes, ponds and cenotes, but it was also found in wells, cave pool, potholes and cenote-like pits (Bowman 1986), the extremes are Blue Holes where it was caught in depths up to 50m (Fosshagen & Iliffe 2003, 2004). In the deep Minicenote it is present throughout the year and seems to make horizontal migrations to the walls of the cenote to escape predation (Cervantes-Martínez *et al.* 2005). It was found at very different salinities: from fresh water (Laguna Cayucón), different higher salinities in the Yucatán Peninsula to marine salinities (Fosshagen & Iliffe 2004). So *M. nesus* is called a halotolerant form. The biogeography of this species during geological development of Central America is given by Suárez-Morales & Reid (2003).

Mastigodiaptomus cf. reidae Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez, 2000: *M. cf reidae* as is *M. reidae* (Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez 2000) are relatively large diaptomids. All were from the same area and from shallow ponds. Their body size can be explained with the lack of fish as predators, which cannot survive in these water bodies that are in part ephemeral. A similar phenomenon was observed in the Pantanal, Brazil with *Argyrodiaptomus nhumirim* (Reid 1997, Brandorff *et al.* 2011).

The dorsal process or hump occurs in many species of different genera, mostly is very variable and therefore has no taxonomic value (Wright 1927, Suárez-Morales &

M. reidae were found (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008a). Our specimens came from the same type of habitat and also from the lowlands of Yucatán; whether it is one of the Kohunlich species or a different one must be proven.

Reid *et al.* (2002) pointed out that the habitats of *M. reidae* and *M. maya* will be exposed to great human pressure because of increasing tourism development in the archaeological sites. These species from this area and the specimens from the pond near Lake Oquevix should be considered vulnerable.

Prionodiaptomus colombiensis (Thiebaud, 1912): This species was found only in two samples from Laguna Sacpuy in Guatemala

TABLE 3
Female/male body size ratio of different *Mastigodiaptomus* species from published literature

<i>Mastigodiaptomus</i> species	mm		Ratio	Author
	Female	Male		
<i>M. albuquerquensis</i>	1.77	1.58	1.12	Marsh 1907
<i>M. purpureus</i>	2.56	2.24	1.14	Marsh 1907
<i>M. nesus</i>	1.48	1.34	1.10	Bowman 1986
<i>M. montezumae</i>	1.59	1.43	1.11	Santos Silva <i>et al.</i> 1996
<i>M. amatitlanensis</i>	1.45	1.33	1.09	Wilson 1941
<i>M. maya</i>	2.38	2.18	1.09	Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez 2000
<i>M. reidae</i>	1.54	1.56	0.99	Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez 2000

Elías-Gutiérrez 2000). Spine-like processes on left and right thoracic wing are on the same position as described by Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez (2000), but are larger (about 25µm) in our specimens. About the same length are the two spines on the anterior third of the long urosome. The caudal rami have an inner and outer setose margin. Striking is the low female/male ratio of 0.99 in *M. reidae* (Table 3), since normally the ratio is greater than one and lies between 1.01 and 1.24 (Cicchino *et al.* 2001).

M. reidae has been found in a small pond in Chicaná, Campeche (Suárez-Morales & Elías-Gutiérrez 2000); and also in a small pond at Kohunlich, Quintana Roo, where two other morphologically similar but distinct species of

and Lago de Güija. On previous reports about the zooplankton of this lake, only immature Diaptomidae were found (Marsh 1931). In June 1980 *Mastigodiaptomus albuquerquensis* (Herrick, 1895) was found in Lago de Güija (Serruya & Pollinger 1983), while in our sample from the same lake, *P. colombiensis* was the only planktonic diaptomid.

One of the tables summarizes the published records on which *P. colombiensis* have been found and therefore its actual known distribution (Table 4). The Northern most point is in Mexico and the Southernmost in Colombia. According to Suárez-Morales *et al.* (2005) it is a South American genus and the only one “that has radiated through Central America and reach Mexico”. The water bodies altitudes varied

TABLE 4
Data from the literature about the geographical distribution of *Prionodiptomus colombiensis* and additional data about the water bodies

No	Country	Author	Environment		Latitude		Longitude		Depth [m]		Altitude [m.a.s.l.]	Area [km ²]
			Name	Type	North	West	Max	Mean				
1	Mexico	Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales 2000	Laguna Matillas	shallow lake	17°52′	92°31′	2.11		4	1.15		
2		Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales 2001	L. Vicario Lagoon	shallow lake	17°47′	91°32′	2		18	2.54		
3			Lechugal lagoon	shallow lake	17°45′	91°31′	2.79		10	1.14		
4			km 51 pond 11	pond	18°23′	92°47′	0.67		13			
5		Elías-Gutiérrez et al. 2008a	km 51	pond	18°23′	92°17′						
6			Laguna 3 Brazos	shallow lake	18°17′	92°48′	2.22		10	0.32		
7			Matias Romero		16.714	94.972						
8	Guatemala	Elías-Gutiérrez et al. 2008b	Pond near Lachua	pond	15.951	90.649						
9		Elías-Gutiérrez et al. 2008b	To Chajmaic 2		15.776	90.145						
10		Juday 1914	Pools near Puerto Barrios	pool	15°43′	88°36′			50?			
11		this study	Los Amates		15°16′	89°05′			80?			
12			Laguna Sacpuy	shallow lake	16°58′	90°00′	4	2	123	3.45		
13			Lago de Güija	lake	14°14′	89°32′	25	5	427	14.3		
14	El Salvador	Marsh 1931	Lake Ahuachapan (Laguna Llano del Espino?)	shallow lake	13°57′	89°51′		3	688			
15			Lake Chalchuapa	deep	13°59′	89°40′			709			
16	Honduras	Marsh 1919	Lake Olomega	shallow lake	13°18′	88°03′	2.9		65	24.2		
17			at La Ceiba		15°46′	86°46′			50?			
18			Lago Nicaragua	deep lake	11°35′	85°21′	91	13	30	8.157		
19	Panama	no data										
20		Marsh 1913	Comacho Reservoir	shallow lake	9°02′	79°40′			105			
21		Dodds 1926	Rio Trinidad		8°43′	79°58′						
22			Gatun Lake	lake	9°11′	79°52′	30	10	27	423.1		
			Brazos Brook Reservoir		9°18′	79°52′			43			

TABLE 4 (Continued)
Data from the literature about the geographical distribution of *Prionodiptomus colombiensis* and additional data about the water bodies

No	Country	Author	Name	Environment	Type	Latitude		Longitude		Depth [m]		Altitude [m.a.s.l.]	Area [km ²]
						North	West	North	West	Max	Mean		
23	Colombia	Thiebaud 1912; Gaviria 1989	Laguna de Ubaque			4°30'	73°56'					2070	
24		Gaviria 1994	Laguna Fuquene		eutrophic shallow lake	5°26'	73°45'			5.5	1.5	2540	
25		Pearse 1915	marsh at Fundación		pools	10°31'	74°12'					50	
26		Kiefer 1956 (Franke 1989)	marsh at Barranquilla		marsh	11°00'	74°45'					5	
27		Gaviria pers. com. 2009	Laguna de la Herrera		shallow lake	4°34'	74°10'			2		2630	
28			Ciénaga de Pigiño		Floodplain lake with lots of aquatic vegetation	9°20'	74°29'			8		100	50
29			Pond 'Las Bolas' Hacienda "Universidad de Antioquia"		pond	9°14'	74°20'			3		100	
30	Venezuela	Montiel & Zoppi de Roa 1979	Esteros de Mantecal		permanent waters in marsh	7°35'	69°10'					80	
31		Dussart 1984	Zuata reservoir near Cagua		Hypertroph shallow lake	10°11'	67°23'			12		520	800ha
32			Estero de Camaguan		swamp	8°08'	67°37'					50	
33			shady pool, km 245, road No 2		pool	8°30'	67°35'					70	
34			charca, near Unaré river at Clarines		pool	9°56'	65°10'					11	
35		Torres & Zoppi de Roa	Palmares III, Peninsula de Paria, Sucre		ephemeral pond	10°35'	62°52'				from dried mud	30	

from nearly sea level (4m) to 2 540m in the Colombian Andes, but more than 70% lie at an altitude between 0 and 100m.

P. colombiensis was found in water bodies of very different sizes: from small ponds and marshes to lakes of over 8 000km². Most samples were from small, shallow lakes, ponds and marshes. Water bodies with a greater surface area mostly were shallow and with much aquatic vegetation, like Lake Güija (Guatemala/El Salvador). In the large Lake Nicaragua *P. colombiensis* was taken from the shore (Herbst 1960, Hartmann 1959). Nearly all records indicate that *P. colombiensis* is a species living in small pools or ponds, in vegetated lakes or on the shore of lakes. This is confirmed by Dodds (1926) from Gatun Lake (Panama), where it was found in shores and ponds, but always in small numbers, except in a very dirty and plant grown pond between Gamboa and Summit, where it was the most abundant species. In Gatun Lake itself *Diaptomus* s.l. *gatunensis* Marsh, 1913 is the abundant diaptomid (Zaret & Suffern 1976). Also Marsh (1931) stated that for *P. colombiensis* “its preferred habitat is in shallow water or pools”. In summary, *P. colombiensis* dwells in shallow lakes, in the littoral and/or within the macrophytes.

In describing the species of *Prionodiaptomus incarum* from Peru, Cicchino *et al.* (2004) showed on the female genital segment “ventroposterior region with very conspicuous semicircular fold with adjacent wrinkled area medially, reaching posterior margin of genital double-somite”. They pointed out that also specimens from Venezuela of *P. colombiensis* have this morphological peculiarity. In our specimens it is crescent shaped. Further studies have to show if it is characteristic for the genus *Prionodiaptomus* and its function. A good overall morphological description and variation is given by Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales (2000).

Leptodiaptomus siciloides (Lilljeborg, 1889 in De Guerne & Richard): This species was only found in Laguna de Ayarza, a figure-8-shaped doublecaldera lake in the Guatemalan

highlands. The lake lies at an altitude of 1 414m.a.s.l., maximum depth is 250m and conductivity between 1 772 and 1 844µS/cm. A comparable habitat is Lago Ilopango in El Salvador, a lake of volcanic origin at an altitude of 490m.a.s.l., with a maximum depth of 215m and conductivity between 1.45 and 2.09mS (Gophen & Walline 2005). There *L. siciloides* was found by Juday (1915), present at all depths, but most abundant between 10 and 25m, together with numerous protozoan Tintinnidae. Also present was the euryhaline rotifer *Hexarthra fennica*; it was also reported from Lago Chamico in El Salvador (Marsh 1931), a deep volcanic lake. These lakes in Guatemala and El Salvador seem to be the southernmost points of the *L. siciloides* geographical distribution. The geographical range covers the USA and Southern Canada (Suárez-Morales *et al.* 2005). In Wisconsin (Torke 2001) *L. siciloides* is fairly common in permanent ponds, lakes and reservoirs. It prefers more eutrophic habitats and this selection let it expand to new habitats due to cultural eutrophication of many lakes and ponds in this state.

In Mexico it is widely distributed in the states of Aguascalientes, Puebla, Coahuila and Sonora (Suárez-Morales *et al.* 2005, Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008b). In Aguascalientes state *L. siciloides* was found at altitudes between 1 850 and 2 010m.a.s.l., in permanent and non-permanent water bodies, with different surface areas and maximum depth (Dodson & Silva-Briano 1996). Other limnological data were not reported but probably cover a wide range.

In two of the sampled water bodies, *A. dorsalis* and *M. nesus* co-occurred (lake San Francisco de Mateos, Mexico and Crooked Tree Sanctuary Lagoon, Belize); the same co-occurrence was reported from Minicene (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008b). Species of the same genus or family can coexist if their temporal and spatial occurrence, their body size, and/or their ecological requirements are different. In this case *A. dorsalis* is about 16% smaller than *M. nesus*. Looking at the conductivity of the water bodies where they were found, we can say that *M. nesus* has a higher

median and a greater range of variation, but the outlier in *A. dorsalis* was as high (4 310 μ S/cm Lake Salpeten, Guatemala) as in *M. nesus* (4 340 μ S/cm in Loché pond, Mexico). Apart from the differences, an overlap in conductivity data is given (Fig. 6).

A. dorsalis also coexists with *Pseudodiaptomus marshi* in Lago Izabal (this study, Brinson & Nordlie 1975), Laguna de Bacalar, Cenote Mayan Blue and Puente Milagros (Elías-Gutiérrez *et al.* 2008b), with *Prionodiaptomus colombiensis* in L. Vicario Lagoon and Matillas Lagoon (Gutiérrez-Aguirre & Suárez-Morales 2001), and with *Mastigodiaptomus texensis* in Mytza Quarry (Flores-Nava 1994). *M. nesus* was found together with *P. marshi* in Laguna de Bacalar and Almond Hill Lagoon, Belize (this study).

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RESUMEN

El sur de México y América Central tienen varios cuerpos de agua con diferente morfología, composición química y una interesante fauna de zooplancton procedente de América del Norte o del Sur. Un grupo de 63 muestras, fueron tomadas en 2005 y 2008 para conocer la cantidad de copépodos calanoides en los cuerpos de agua del karst Península de Yucatán, Belice y Guatemala. Se utilizó literatura antigua y reciente para la identificación de los especímenes a nivel de especie y se preparon dibujos con un microscopio y una cámara lúcida. En un total de 32 muestras se obtuvieron seis especies de copépodos calanoides: un pseudodiaptomidos estuarino y cinco diaptomidos de agua dulce. *Pseudodiaptomus marshi* fue encontrado a

diferentes salinidades. Además, se confirmó que los diaptomidos más comunes en la Península de Yucatán fueron: *Arctodiaptomus dorsalis* y *Mastigodiaptomus nesus*. El primero se registró también en el lago de Amatitlán. *Mastigodiaptomus nesus* está ampliamente distribuido al igual que *A. dorsalis*, pero se encuentra ausente en el área del Lago Petén en Guatemala. *Mastigodiaptomus reidae* fue localizado en dos hábitats poco profundos, éstos especímenes difieren de los tipos de la localidad, por tener un grupo de espinas de gran tamaño en la última parte de la caja torácica y los segmentos del urosoma de las hembras. *Leptodiaptomus siciloides* se encontró sólo en el Lago Ayarza, el cual contiene alta salinidad. *Prionodiaptomus colombiensis* se localizó en las tierras altas de Guatemala en el Lago de Güija y en la zona del Petén en Laguna Sapuy. Se contribuye con registros de presencia de especies para un mejor conocimiento de la distribución geográfica de algunos copépodos calanoides. De la misma forma, los hallazgos morfológicos en algunas especies son de gran valor taxonómico para la diferenciación de especies.

Palabras clave: América Central, zooplancton, copépodos calanoides, Pseudodiaptomidae, Diaptomidae, distribución geográfica.

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