

FIRST RECORD OF *Dunhevedia colombiensis* STINGELIN, 1913 (CLADOCERA, ANOMOPODA, CHYDORIDAE) FROM BRAZIL

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(With 4 figures)

According to Smirnov (1996), there are two species of the genus *Dunhevedia* (Crustacea, Cladocera, Anomopoda, Chydoridae) occurring in the Neotropics: *Dunhevedia odontoplax* Sars, 1901 and *Dunhevedia colombiensis* Stingelin, 1913. Although both species are widely distributed in the Neotropical Region, until now the single species known to exist in Brazil was *D. odontoplax* (Elmoor-Loureiro, 2000). This study reports the first Brazilian record of *D. colombiensis*, which was found in Cabiúnas Lagoon (*Parque Nacional da Restinga de Jurubatiba, Macaé, Rio de Janeiro*).

Samples were taken from the littoral zone of Cabiúnas Lagoon, located in *Parque Nacional da Restinga de Jurubatiba* (22° 18' S and 41° 42' W) in June 2004. *D. colombiensis* was found associated with the aquatic macrophytes *Eleocharis interstincta*, *Potamogeton stenostachys*, and especially with *Typha domingensis*. Samples of each macrophyte species were collected using a core sampler (Ø 20 cm). With the use of a 45 µm mesh plankton net, 10 L samples were concentrated and fixed immediately with 4% formalin.

The voucher specimens were deposited in the laboratory of limnology collection at the *Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro* and the zoology laboratory collection at the *Universidade Católica de Brasília*.

The observed specimens have elongated, almost rectangular shape; short rostrum; denticles at the postero-ventral angle of the carapace; postabdomen oval with anus located on its proximal dorsal margin (Figs. 1-3), which are typical features of the genus *Dunhevedia*. The presence of

one large and three small teeth on the outer margin of the labral plate (Fig. 4) and two denticles on the postero-ventral angle of the carapace (Fig. 3) confirm the specimens as *D. colombiensis*.

Based exclusively on the number of labral teeth and carapace denticles, Stingelin (1913) described this taxon as a variety of *Dunhevedia odontoplax*. Smirnov (1996) elevated *colombiensis* to the species status, using the same characters to distinguish these two species. Nevertheless, the number of labral teeth and carapace denticles can vary within limits according to age, sex, and population, as Rajapaksa & Fernando (1987) noted for North American species of *Dunhevedia*.

A great overlap exists in geographical distribution between *D. odontoplax* and *D. colombiensis*. According to Smirnov (1996), *D. odontoplax* is found from Nicaragua to Chile, while *D. colombiensis* has been reported in Colombia and Argentina. So, the occurrence of *D. colombiensis* in Brazil, reported here for the first time, is not surprising.

On the other hand, the overlapping distributions of *D. odontoplax* and *D. colombiensis*, as well the variations possible in their diagnostic characters, suggests the need for more detailed morphological and ecological studies comparing these two species.

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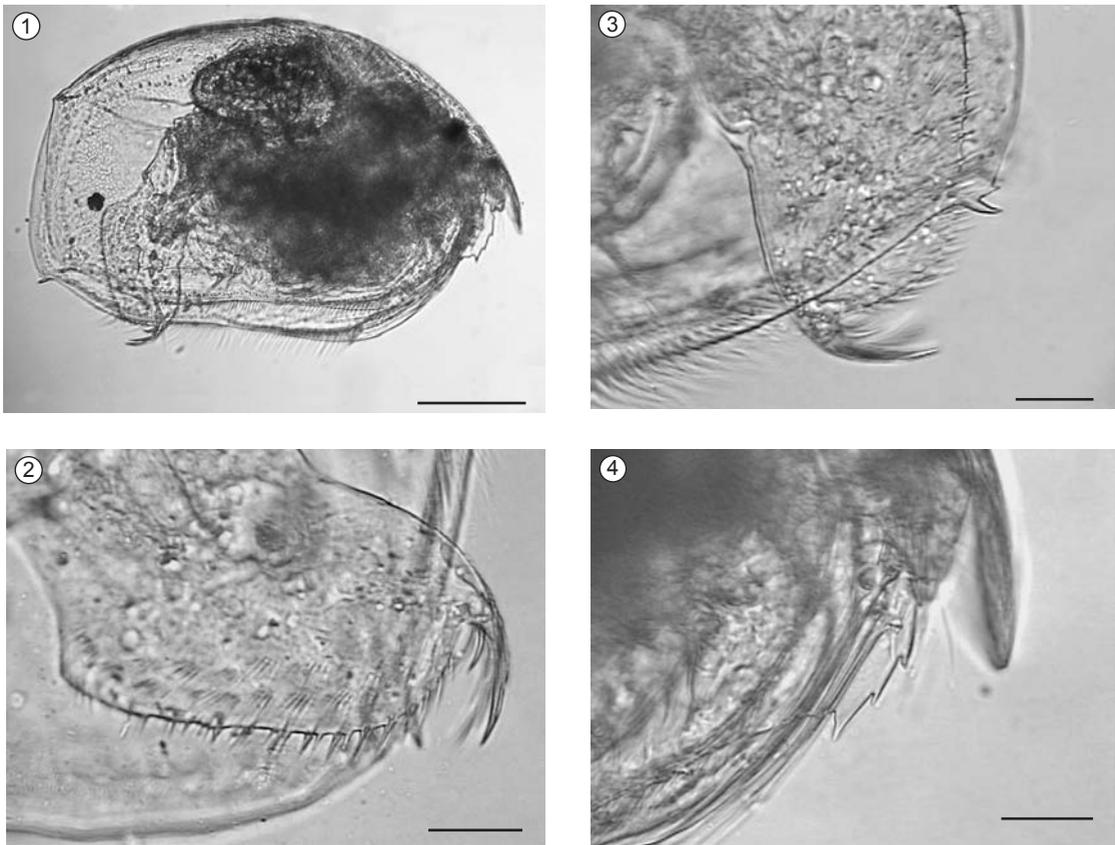


Fig. 1-4 — *Dunhevedia colombiensis*. 1) adult female, lateral view; 2) postabdomen; 3) postero-ventral angle of carapace; and 4) labrum. Scale bars denote 100 μm for Fig. 1 and 25 μm for Figs. 2-4.

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