

Phyllocycla baria, a new species from Venezuela (Odonata: Gomphidae)

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BELLE, J., 1987. *PHYLLOCYCLA BARIA*, A NEW SPECIES FROM VENEZUELA (ODONATA: GOMPHIDAE). – *ENT. BER., AMST.* 47(3): 49-50.

Abstract: A description and illustrations are given of *Phyllocycla baria* spec. nov., based on a single male from Venezuela (Río Baría, TFA), supported by a colour-slide of the live specimen.

Onder de Beumkes 35, 6883 HC Velp.

Introduction

Some time ago I had the pleasure of receiving from Mr. Jorge de Marmels (Caracas) a male dragonfly which proved to belong to an undescribed species of *Phyllocycla* Calvert. Added to the specimen was a good colour-slide of the living insect, with striking brown-and-green thorax markings. I thank Mr. De Marmels for his kindness in sending to me this material for study and description.

Phyllocycla baria spec. nov. (figs. 1-7)

Holotype: Venezuela, Territorio Federal Amazonas, Dept. Río Negro, Bajo Caño Ocuene (Río Baría), 24.vi-11.vii.1984, J. de Marmels leg. (♂ adult; pale markings obscured by postmortem changes). It is deposited in the Instituto de Zoología Agrícola, Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas. Slide No. 7699.

Measurements: total length 45 mm; abdomen 35 mm (incl. caud. app. 1.5 mm); hind wing 27 mm; costal edge of pterostigma in fore wing 3.1 mm.

Head dark brown. Hind margin of occiput very slightly concave and thinly fringed with hairs (fig. 3).

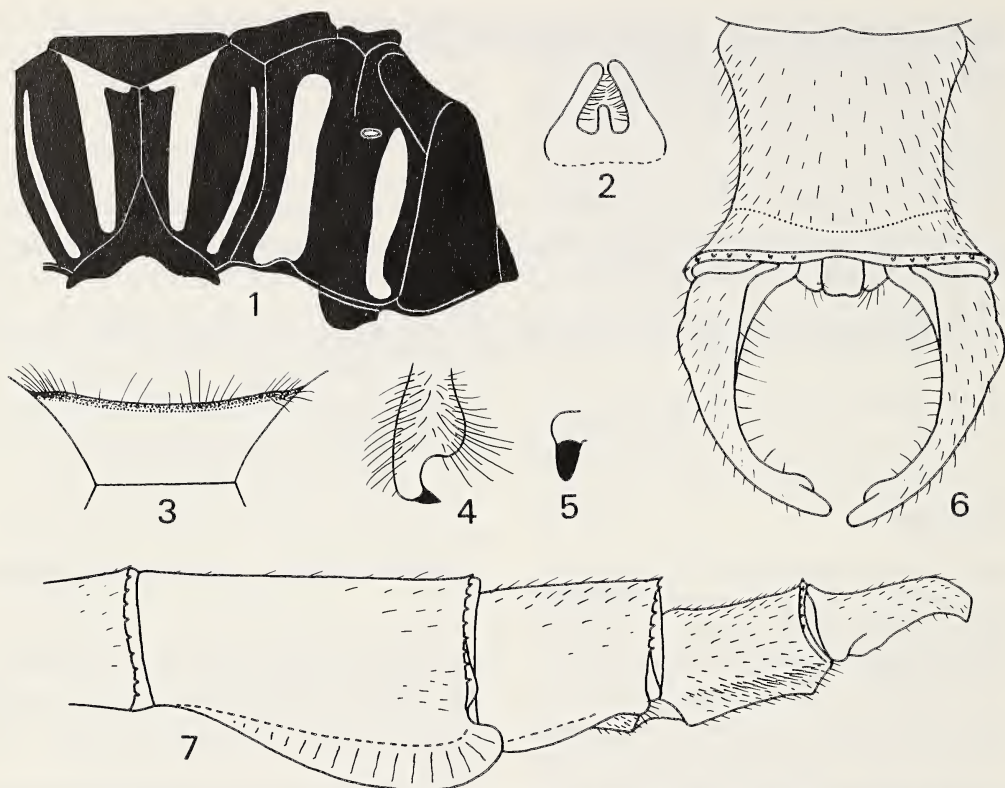
Prothorax dark brown. Pterothorax mostly dark brown striped with green; its colour design as shown in diagram (fig. 1; the colour-slide shows the brown of the pterothorax very dark on the dorsum and grad-

ually becoming less dark on the metepimeron).

Legs dark brown but inner side of first femur yellow. Largest spines of third femur one-third the diameter of femur. Lamina tibialis of first tibia nearly half the tibial length.

Wings with brown-tinged membrane. Venation black-brown, including frontal margin of costae. Pterostigma brown-yellow. Nodal index 10 : 17-17 : 13/11 : 13-14 : 13. Basal subcostal cross-vein present. First and sixth antenodals thickened. Intermedian cross-veins 9-9/6-6. Triangles, subtriangles and supratrangles two-celled except for subtriangle in hind wings which is one-celled. Trigonal interspaces starting with two rows of cells from triangle outwards, that in hind wings starting with an extra initial cell. Hind wings with four paranal cells and three postanal cells. Anal triangle four-celled. Anal loop two-celled, with A1 and A2 converging to its rear and strongly diverging thereafter to wing margin. Two enlarged cells stand squarely between rear side of anal loop and marginal row of smaller cells.

Abdomen very slender, black-brown but superior surface of auricles, base of segment 7 and lateral sides of segments 8 to 10 with a touch of brown-yellow. Caudal ap-



Figs. 1-7. *Phyllocycla baria* spec. nov., ♂ holotype: 1, diagram of thoracic colour pattern; 2, rear view of vesicle; 3, occipital plate; 4, ventral view of right posterior hamule; 5, apex of right posterior hamule seen in oblique direction from left; 6, dorsal view of abdominal segment 10 and appendages; 7, left profile view of abdominal segments 8 to 10 and appendages.

pendages and accessory genitalia as shown in accompanying figures. Inferior caudal appendages vestigial and very small, its posterior margin concave. Hood of penial peduncle (vesicle) with a well-developed tooth at bottom (fig. 2.).

Phyllocycla baria is most closely related to *Phyllocycla ophis* (Selys) and *Phyllocycla modesta* Belle. The three species are clearly forming a group, for which I propose the name *ophis*-group. The group is characterized in the male sex by (1) a plate-like expansion (or sharp carina) on the underside of the superior caudal appendages just beyond the base of the appendage, (2) the smooth (i.e. without tooth or tubercle) upper and inner surface of the superior caudal appendages between the base and the point where the appendage is curved inward and

downward, (3) in having the green marking on each side of the middorsal carina of the pterothorax distinctly 7-shaped. The male of *Phyllocycla baria* is easily distinguished from that of the other species of the group in having the lateral dilatations of the eighth abdominal segment widest at the apex of the segment; widest at mid-length in *ophis* and *modesta*. The superior caudal appendages are stouter and more angular than in *modesta* and much smaller and more slender than in *ophis* while the tip of the appendages lacks the produced, bluntly rounded superior angle. The extreme tip of the posterior genital hamule is flat and rounded in *baria* (figs. 4 and 5) and acutely pointed in the other species of the group.