

Oxyethira fischeri n. sp.
A new Oxyethira species from Madeira
(Trichoptera: Hydroptilidae)

by

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Dr. P. WAGENAAR HUMMELINCK of Bilthoven (the Netherlands) was so kind as to offer me a number of nymphs and larvae of Hydroptilids he sampled in Madeira. Most of the nymphs were at an age at which the genitalia were fully developed. After preparation, it was possible to study the genital structures in detail. The specimens all clearly belonged to the same species of the genus *Oxyethira* Eaton 1873. To the best of my knowledge this species has not been described, and I therefore propose the name *Oxyethira fischeri* to honour my teacher and friend, the late F. C. J. FISCHER of Rotterdam.

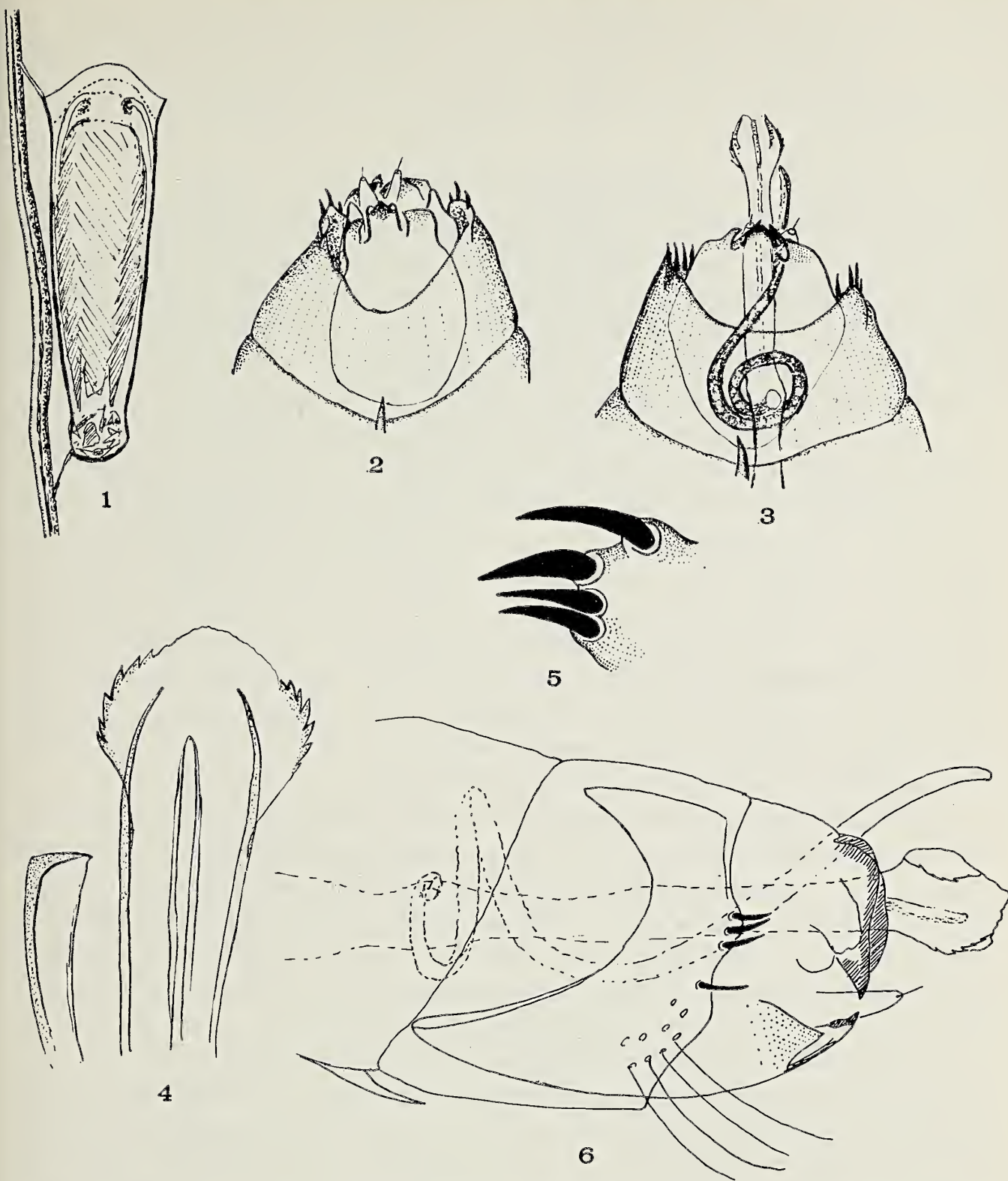
The material was sampled in Madeira, Rio de Faial, 2 km W of Porto da Cruz, 10·m, on 28.VI.1967 in a drying, partially swampy river. The chloride content of the river water is 40 mg/litre. The holotype and some of the paratypes are stored in the collection of the Museum of Natural History at Leiden, the Netherlands. The other paratypes are in the collection of the University of Utrecht.

The species seems to be closely allied to *Oxyethira falcata* Morton 1893. An excellent description of this species has been given by JACQUEMART & COINEAU (1962), and I shall refer to the drawings in their publication. There are three discrepancies in the male genitalia between the two species under discussion.

1. The number of spines on the side-pieces of the eighth segment in our material is three or four; in *O. falcata* this number is two or three.
2. The darkly pigmented, down-turned plates lateral to the penis ("appendices intermédiaires", JACQUEMART & COINEAU) are smooth at the posterior margin; in *O. falcata* the margin is serrated (see Figure in JACQUEMART & COINEAU). MOSELY (1939) describes an acute, bifurcate (?) apex, which is more like the new species (Fig. 6).
3. The shape of the far end of the penis (Fig. 4) differs greatly from *O. falcata* as depicted by JACQUEMART & COINEAU and by MARTINOV (1934). This seems to me a very important characteristic.

In studying the literature on the Trichopterous fauna of the Atlantic Islands my attention was drawn to *Oxyethira dentata* Nybom, formerly described as *O. bidentata* (Nybom 1948). In my opinion there is a striking resemblance with *O. falcata*, and as a result I sincerely doubt the validity of *O. dentata*. According to JACQUEMART & COINEAU, the species *O. falcata* shows constant variations, and they suggest the presence of eco-biogeographic forms. The distribution of the species is very wide (SCHMID 1960), so the possibility that these forms occur, including *O. dentata* Nybom, is very real. Although *O. fischeri* resembles *O. falcata*, I do not consider it as belonging to such a group of forms, because of the striking character of the penis described under point 3.

In a separate article I shall give descriptions of the female, the larva, and the nymph of *Oxyethira fischeri*.



1. The nymph in its case. 2 and 3. Ventral view of the male genitalia of two different specimens. 4. The far end of the penis and flagellum. 5. Pleural spines on the eighth segment. 6. Lateral view of the male genitalia.

References

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