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TELEBASIS AUREIPENNIS JURZITZA, 1980, A JUNIOR SYNONYM OF *T. THEODORI* (NAVAS, 1934) (ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)

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Comparison of the holotype of *Argia theodori* with a small series of *Telebasis aureipennis* and illustration of a paratype male show these 2 spp. to be synonyms. The holotype is described, pertinent diagnostic characters are illustrated, and a comparison with *T. carota* Kennedy is provided.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last several years, I have been working intensively on neotropical species of the genus *Argia* in hopes of unraveling this bewildering complex of described and undescribed species. Much work on this genus has been done by Mrs Leonora K. Gloyd over the last 40 years. During several visits to the University of Michigan, I have had the privilege of examining the rich holdings of this genus. Gloyd had already put together a complete list of all names used under *Argia,* and several species of the genus were described by Longinos Navás. Resolution of names proposed by Navás has normally been difficult owing to inadequate descriptions and concomitant unavailability of types.

During the 1930's, Gloyd had the foresight to borrow several type specimens of *Argia* named by Navás while he was still alive. Among this material was the holotype female of *Argia theodori* described by Navás in 1934 from Caixías [sic], Brazil.

KENNEDY (1936: 811), in discussing *T. carota* Kennedy, stated:

"Among types of species of Argia loaned the University of Michigan for study by Mrs. Gloyd, Navas included the unique female holotype of *Argia theodori* Navas (1934). Doctor Calvert was visiting at Ann Arbor at the time (June, 1935). Both he and Mrs. Gloyd decided *theodori* was a Telebasis with its probable nearest described relative *sanguinalis.* The present writer saw the specimen at that time but was not then interested in Telebasis so made no comparisons with the present material of *carota.* From Navas' description *theodori* is the same size as *carota,* has the same venation but is a species with

more red on the occipital region and has a darker abdomen. It is from "Caixias", Brazil, which from other records in the same article should be Caxias, Rio Grande do Sul.

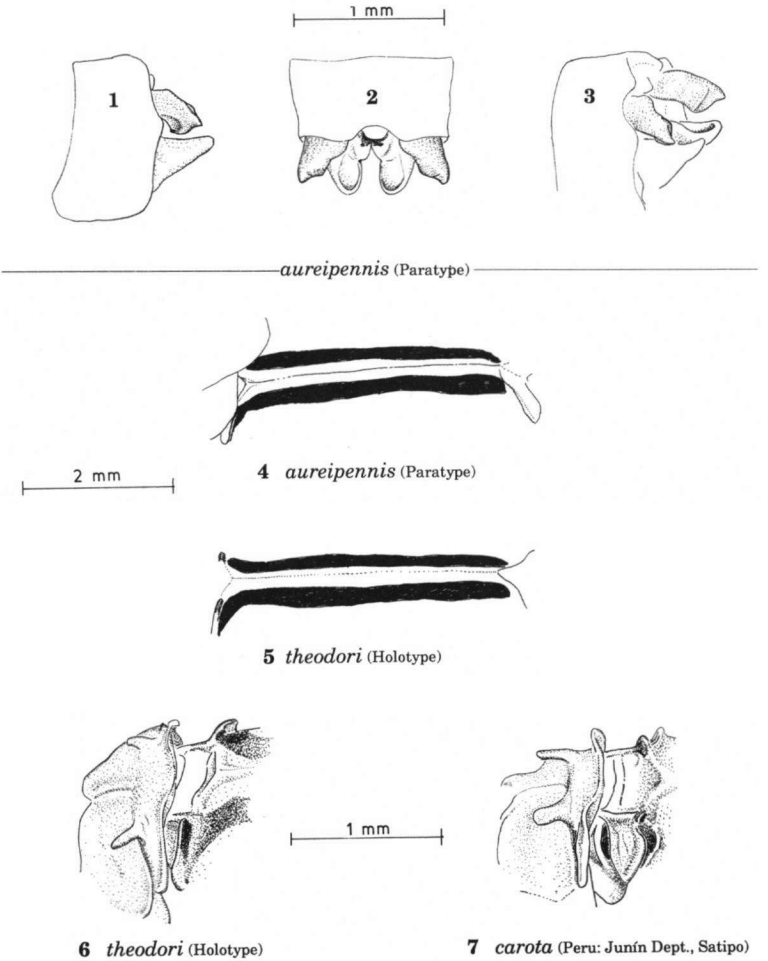
JURZITZA (1980) described *Telebasis aureipennis* based on three males from Misiones Prov., Argentina, and stated that this species was closest to *T. carota* ("Die neue Art steht der *Telebasis carota* Kennedy, 1936 nahe; die Bestimmungstabelle von ST. QUENTIN (1960) führt zu dieser Art hin"). Through the kindness of Dr Gerhard Jurzitza, I was able to borrow one of the paratype males in 1989 and made illustrations of various diagnostic characters (Figs 1-4). In November, 1990, I visited the Florida State Collection of Arthropods (FSCA) at the University of Florida at Gainesville and Dr Minter J. Westfall, Jr., loaned me some Navás type material described under the genus *Argia.* Among these specimens was the holotype female of *A. theodori,* whose diagnostic characters I illustrate in Figures 5-6. I also examined a small unidentified series of five male and three female *Telebasis* from Brazil (Rio Vermelho, Santa Catarina, Brazil, Jan. 1944, A. Maller, coll., Frank Johnson, donor).

Comparison of these specimens with illustrations I made of the paratype of *T. aureipennis* leaves no doubt that they are conspecific, but a further comparison of the male with the holotype of *Telebasis theodori* convinces me that *T. aureipennis* is a junior synonym of *T. theodori.* All specimens share the same general facies, size, and appear to be unique in having flavescent wings, a feature mentioned in the descriptions of both Navás ("Alae membrana levissime flavo tincta...") and Jurzitza's ("Membran gelblich getönt..."). The distribution of *Telebasis theodori* includes Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina states, Brazil, and Misiones Province, Argentina.

REDESCRIPTION OF *TELEBASIS THEODORI*

Because the original description of *Telebasis theodori* is not detailed and is generally unavailable to odonatologists, I include a description of the holotype and a couplet with which to separate females of *T. theodori* and *T. carota.*

HOLOTYPE female. — Entire face pale orange, especially so on labrum with following areas black: a median triangular spot encompassing ocellar triangle with a long narrow anterolateral arm extending from behind lateral ocellus to and touching large subquadrate spot adjacent to compound eye, the same as shown in fig. 1 of JURZITZA (1980); frons angulate, rear of head entirely pale. Prothorax (Fig. 6) entirely pale with hint of darker median line at juncture of middle lobes and with a pale area on either side followed more laterally by a diffuse longitudinal dark line; anterior margin of hind lobe with a pair of short anterolateral digits appressed against median lobe. Synthorax entirely pale, more so laterally, with a narrow black middorsal stripe adjacent to antealar crest and middorsal thoracic carina (Fig. 5), its upper end barely touching antealar crest, its lower end diverging anterolaterally encompassing medial 0.5



Figs 1-7. *Telebasis* spp.: (1) Caudal appendages of paratype male *T. aureipennis* (Argentina: Misiones Prov., Parque Nac. Iguazú, Pestacamento Calaratas, 12 Nov. 1975, G. Jurzitza), left lateral view; — (2) same, dorsal view; — (3) same, oblique lateroposterior view; — (4) same, dorsolateral view of synthorax; — (5) *T. theodori,* holotype female, dorsolateral view of synthorax; — (6) same, dorsolateral view of prothorax and mesostigmal plates; — (7) *T. carota* female (Peru: Junín Dept., Satipo, 6 Jan. 1941, P. Paprzycki, det. L.K. Gloyd 1976), dorsolateral view of prothorax and mesostigmal plates.

of mesostigmal plate. Mesostigmal plate triangular, with strongly raised posterior margin. Legs entirely pale, armature black.

Wings slightly flavescent, venation dull orange brown, slightly darker distally,

pterostigma dull orange brown. Postnodals: fore wing 13/13, hind wing 11/[right hind wing missing]; postquadrangular cells 3 in all wings, IR_2 originating at 6th postnodal crossvein in fore wings, at 5th in left hind wing.

Abdomen entirely orange, annuli slightly darker, a diffuse median brown spot on segment 1; cerci orange brown. Vulvulae of ovipositor extending slightly beyond segment 10.

Hind wing 19 mm, abdomen 26.5 mm.

Holotype with following labels: (1) small pale green label: "Caxias/(Brasil)/XII-1932 [not 1931 as stated in original description]"all in Navás' hand, — (2) larger pale green rectangular label: "Argia/theodori ♀ Nav. [handwritten]/P. Navás S.J. det. [printed]", — (3) rectangular pale pink label: "Typus" in Navás' hand. In Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Gainesville.

Mrs L.K. Gloyd kindly gave me a pair of *Telebasis carota,* from which the females of *T. theodori* can be readily distinguished by the following couplet:

1 Entire epicranium black except for narrow pale anterolateral line extending from lateral ocellus, rear of head black; synthorax with black middorsal stripe continuous, not interrupted medially by middorsal thoracic carina or antealar crest; mesostigmal plate with posterior margin arcuate, not raised, separated from posteromedial tubercle (Fig. 7). Napo and Oriente provinces, Ecuador, and Junín Dept., Peru ..... ***carota***

1' Entire epicranium pale except for area within ocellar triangle, large subquadrate black spot next to compound eye, and narrow line extending behind lateral ocellus connecting with quadrate spot; rear of head pale, synthorax with black middorsal stripe widely interrupted by middorsal thoracic carina and antealar crest (Fig. 5); mesostigmal plate triangular, its posterior margin linear and strongly costate (Fig. 7). Southern Brazil and Misiones Province, Argentina ..... ***theodori***

KENNEDY (1936: 815), in citing the Navás paper, stated: "... Navas describes as *Argia Theodori,* sp. nov. from 'Caixias', Brazil, a female *Telebasis* which Calvert and Mrs Gloyd, who examined the type loaned to the University of Michigan, decided was a species otherwise undescribed but near *Telebasis sanguinalis* Calv." I have not seen females of *T. sanguinalis,* but body coloration and head maculation of males precludes conspecificity between these two species. The epicranium of male (and most likely female) *T. sanguinalis* is mostly black with only a red area lateral to the ocellar triangle. The rear of the head is black and the extensor surfaces of the femora are black.

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