

**METALEPTOBASIS CYANOLINEATA SPEC. NOV.,
A NEW DAMSELFLY FROM SURINAM
(ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)**

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The new sp. (holotype ♂, allotype ♀: Surinam, Mungotapoe, Marowijne distr., 20-IX-1948, D.C. Geijskes leg., deposited at RMNH, Leiden, The Netherlands) is described and compared with its congeners. It can easily be distinguished by light blue antehumeral stripes and by the presence of 2 horns, in the middle of the posterior pronotal margin.

INTRODUCTION

The species of the genus *Metaleptobasis* Calvert (15 species known) occur in Central and South America. Compared to other species in the family Coenagrionidae the species of this genus are somewhat robust (Surinam species: abdominal length 31-41 mm, hindwing length 19-25 mm). Their major habitats are shallow backwaters of creeks and marshes.

Studying specimens of *Metaleptobasis* collected in Surinam in the Odonata collection of the RMNH (Leiden, The Netherlands), specimens of an undescribed species were found. The prothoracic horns on the posterior pronotal margin of the female had already been illustrated by WILLIAMSON (1915). He included wing venation and morphological characters in a tabulation, but did not name the species.

METALEPTOBASIS CYANOLINEATA SP. NOV.

Figures 1-3

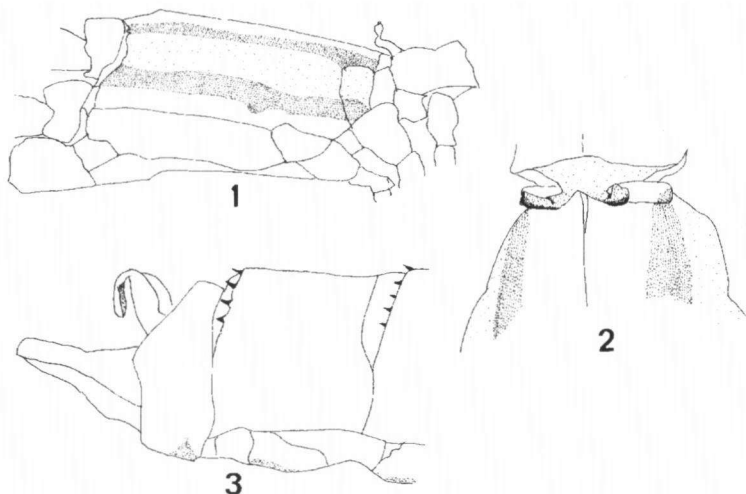
Material. - **Holotype** ♂, **allotype** ♀, Surinam, Mungotapoe, Marowijne distr., 5°35'N, 54°15'W, 20-IX-1948, D.C. Geijskes leg. - **Paratypes** (11 ♂, 20 ♀): Surinam: 1 ♂, Barikreek, junction with Coppename R., 15-VII-1943, D.C. Geijskes leg.; - same locality and date as holotype, 5 ♂, 5 ♀; - 1 ♀,

21-XI-1948; - 1 ♀, 22-IX-1948; - 1 ♂, 27-IX-1948, D.C. Geijskes leg.; 1 ♀, Wanekreek, in forest, 29-IX-1948, D.C. Geijskes leg.; - 1 ♀, Third camp, forest on sand ridge, about 10 km north of Wanekreek, 18-X-1948, D.C. Geijskes leg.; - 1 ♀, Tjakaston, Coppename R., VIII-1954, J. Lindeman leg.; Anapaiké, Lawa R., Marowijne distr., 1 ♀, 12-XI-1963; - 2 ♀, 14-XI-1963; - 1 ♀, 21-XI-1963; - 2 ♂, 3 ♀, 24-XI-1963, S. Ligorie leg.; - 1 ♂, 26-XI-1963, B. Malkin leg.; - 1 ♀, 28-XI-1963, S. Ligorie leg. (all in RMNH).

E t y m o l o g y. - cyanolineata: meaning 'blue lined' referring to the characteristic light blue antehumeral stripe on the thorax.

MALE (holotype). **H e a d.** - Labium, maxilla and mandible pale brown, movable hook and endhook dark brown; labrum dark punctated on pale brown background, two dark brown areas proximolaterally, apically pale brown bordered; genae orange brown; postclypeus dark punctated on orange brown background; frons pale orange brown; vertex orange brown with some dark parts around the ocelli; ocelli clear; postocular lobe orange brown (alive: subdued red); antennae brownish; compound eye greyish (alive: dorsal half green, ventral half subdued red).

T h o r a x. - Prothorax: pale brown; posterior lobe with two horns 0.5 mm in length most narrow halfway and rounded at apex; angled upward with apical half directed backwards and somewhat divergent; laterally from these horns are two small round posterior lobes. - Synthorax (Figs 1, 2): orange brown (alive: rust-coloured) with a bluegreyish (alive: light blue) antehumeral stripe, bordered by two dark stripes; mesostigmal plate pale brown, laterally bluegreyish. - Wings: hyaline, venation brown; pterostigma pale brown, paler just against the enclosing veins, 0.8 mm long, 0.5 mm wide, covering less than one cell; Cu2 ends at level of third postnodal in front wing, at third and fourth postnodal in hindwing; for other



Figs 1-3. *Metaleptobasis cyanolineata* sp.n.: (1) allotype ♀: synthorax, lateral view; - (2) allotype ♀: synthorax and prothorax, dorsal view; - (3) holotype ♂: appendices, lateral view.

characteristics of wing venation see tabulation in WILLIAMSON (1915). – Legs: yellow brown with black spines, tarsal claw not toothed, brown, tip dark brown.

A b d o m e n. – Segments 1 and 2 pale brown dorsally; segments 3-7 on dorsum brown each with pale interrupted basal ring and dark ring at apex; segment 8 pale brown (alive: laterally a greenish spot present); segments 9-10 on dorsum dark brown, segment 10 with a lateral dark spot; middorsal carina pale brown; ventral side of abdomen pale brown. – Terminalia (Fig. 3): superior appendage predominantly brown, some parts dark brown, in dorsal view slightly divergent, proximal part rises vertically, while apical third points ventrally; inferior appendage at base pale brown, central part brown, at apex dark brown, in lateral view widest at base narrowing gradually distally; inferior appendage twice as long as segment 10.

V a r i a t i o n. – Size: abdomen 31-35 mm, hindwing 19-21 mm. Colour of vertex: most often black (60%), sometimes orange brown (20%), partly black (10%) or partly reddish brown (10%). Venation variability in Cu2 ending with reference to the postnodals as follows: in the frontwing at third (81%), rarely at fourth (13%) or second (6%), in hindwing at third (69%) or fourth (31%).

FEMALE (allotype) as in male except for following features:

H e a d. – labrum and postclypeus orange brown; first half of antennal pedicel light brown; eye brownish.

T h o r a x. – Prothorax: horns as in male, but apical half is more elevated and more divergent. – Abdomen: segments 8-10 each dark brown in the apical half. – Wings: pterostigma 1.2 mm long in frontwing, 0.8 mm in hindwing, much nearer to wing apex in forewing as in hindwing.

A b d o m e n. – Terminalia: superior appendage conic, brown, 0.6 mm long; sternite 8 pale brown with a black line over 80% of its length and with a small yellow posterior spine; width of outer valve 0.8 mm, length 3 mm (0.3 mm longer as segment 10); style brown and 0.6 mm long; terebra brown.

V a r i a t i o n. – Size: abdomen 31-33 mm, hindwing 19-21 mm. Colour of vertex mainly orange brown (83%), sometimes brownish (11%) or black (6%). Venation variability in Cu2 ending with reference to postnodals as follows: in frontwing mainly at third (67%), less so at fourth (28%), rarely at second (6%), in hindwing at third (47%) or fourth (44%), seldom at fifth (8%).

DISTRIBUTION. – Surinam, Guyana.

REMARKS. – The specimens were taken at five localities, two in the coastal area (Mungotapoe and Wanekreek), three in the interior (Tjakaston and Barikreek both near Coppename River and Anapaike near Lawa River). WILLIAMSON's (1915) record pertains to a female collected on 30-I-1912 at Rockstone (E.B. Williamson, leg.), in the coastal plain of Guyana. Although most of his material is in UMMZ (Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.) this specimen is not there.

On the labels several times is noted that the specimens were taken in dark and/or shaded areas and were flying near the ground. Three female specimens at Anapaike

were captured at night on lights.

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