

CLADOCERA FAUNA COMPOSITION IN A RIVER-LAGOON SYSTEM OF THE UPPER PARANÁ RIVER FLOODPLAIN, WITH A NEW RECORD FOR BRAZIL

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ABSTRACT

Cladocera communities were studied in lotic and lentic environments of the Upper Paraná River floodplain, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, Brazil. A total of 63 species of Cladocera were identified in 108 samples. Of these, 24 species are considered new records for that floodplain, and one is a new record for Brazil. Chydoridae was the most representative family with 19 genera and 39 species.

Key words: Cladocera, species richness, floodplain, Upper Paraná River.

RESUMO

Composição de cladóceros em um sistema rio-lagoa na planície de inundação do alto rio Paraná, Brasil

A comunidade de cladóceros foi estudada em ambientes lótico e lêntico na planície de inundação do alto rio Paraná, Estado do Mato Grosso do Sul, Brasil. Foram identificadas 63 espécies em 108 amostras. Deste total, 24 espécies são consideradas novos registros para essa planície de inundação e uma espécie é um novo registro para o Brasil. Chydoridae foi a família mais representativa, com 19 gêneros e 39 espécies.

Palavras-chave: Cladocera, riqueza de espécies, planície de inundação, rio Paraná.

INTRODUCTION

River floodplains are non-equilibrium systems whose ecological integrity depends upon a certain level of disturbance (Ward *et al.*, 1999). These environments, strongly influenced by water level fluctuations, are heterogeneous landscapes with high biological diversity. The Upper Paraná River floodplain is one of the few remaining non-dammed stretches of the Paraná River in Brazil. Multidisciplinary studies have shown that this remnant floodplain retains high biodiversity and that it is

fundamental in maintaining those species already eliminated from the other areas of the Paraná River basin (Agostinho & Zalewski, 1996; Paggi, *in press*).

Numerical data on the Cladocera fauna of Neotropical river floodplain systems are still too few and most studies have considered primarily pelagic species. Lack of data on the littoral fauna of these environments can basically be attributed to sampling difficulties and taxonomical problems. Good estimates of the number of species occurring in neotropical regions can be found in Paggi & José de Paggi (1990) and Paggi (1995). The preliminary

biogeographical synthesis of the Neotropical Cladoceran fauna given by Paggi (1993, 1995) points out the basic features of this fauna:

- (i) it is poor in endemics at high taxonomic levels, contrasting with Holarctic and Australasian regions;
- (ii) only the families Macrothricidae and Chydoridae have endemic genera;
- (iii) there is no endemism in neotropical regions shared with the Ethiopian region, with the exception of *Moina reticulata*;
- (iv) Sididae, Macrothricidae, and Chydoridae are more diverse in tropical and subtropical waters.

It is important to note that the Paraná River basin harbours a very rich zooplanktonic fauna, in many cases associated to littoral habitats (Paggi, 1972, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1987, 1990, 1995, *in press*; Corrales de Jacobo & Frutos, 1985; Matsumura-Tundisi, 1986; Paggi & José de Paggi, 1990; Lima *et al.*, 1996; Lansac-Tôha *et al.*, 1997; Sendacz, 1997). The loss of environmental heterogeneity and habitats, a consequence of construction in the Paraná River basin, can be considered a major threat to this fauna (Paggi, *in press*). This paper presents data on the composition of the cladoceran fauna collected in the Ivinhema River and Patos Lagoon, located in the Upper Paraná River floodplain, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, and includes new records for the study area and a new record for Brazil.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The Ivinhema River ($22^{\circ}49' S$, $53^{\circ}34' W$) is the main meandering tributary of the upper Paraná River right bank. The average declivity is 10.8 cm.km^{-1} and the average current speed in the river channel is 0.85 m.s^{-1} . Patos Lagoon ($22^{\circ}49' S$, $53^{\circ}33' W$) is a small marginal lagoon ($\sim 1.2 \text{ km}^2$) with depths ranging between 2.8 and 4.8 m. It is connected year-round with the Ivinhema River by a permanent channel and is therefore directly influenced by the oscillation of the river water level (Fig. 1).

The marginal vegetation of both river and lagoon is composed of trees, shrubs, grass (*Panicum* sp.), and dense stands of aquatic macrophytes of the genera *Eichhornia*, *Salvinia*, and *Polygonum*, among others. Samples were collected at nine sites. The type of environment, whether lentic or lotic, and the predominant marginal vegetation are described in Table 1.

The sampling sites were visited at monthly intervals from March 1993 to February 1994. A total of 108 samples were collected. High temperatures, neutral pH, and low electrical conductivity are common to both environments (Thomaz *et al.*, 1997). Low oxygen concentrations occur during the high water periods and high oxygen concentrations occur during the low water ones (Thomaz *et al.*, 1997).

Cladocerans were collected by filtering 1 m^3 of surface water through a $68 \mu\text{m}$ mesh conical net, with the aid of a motorized pump.

TABLE 1
Description of sampling sites.

	Collecting site	Environment	Vegetation
1	Pelagic region of connecting channel	Lentic	—
2	Littoral region of lagoon	Lentic	<i>Eichhornia azurea</i>
3	Pelagic region of lagoon	Lentic	—
4	Littoral region of lagoon	Lentic	<i>Panicum</i> sp.
5	Littoral region of lagoon	Lentic	<i>Polygonum</i> sp./ <i>E. azurea</i>
6	Littoral region of lagoon	Lentic	<i>Polygonum</i> sp./ <i>E. azurea</i>
7	Left margin of river	Lotic	<i>E. azurea</i> / <i>Polygonum</i> sp./ <i>E. crassipes</i>
8	Pelagic region of river	Lotic	—
9	Right margin of river	Lotic	Trees/shrub

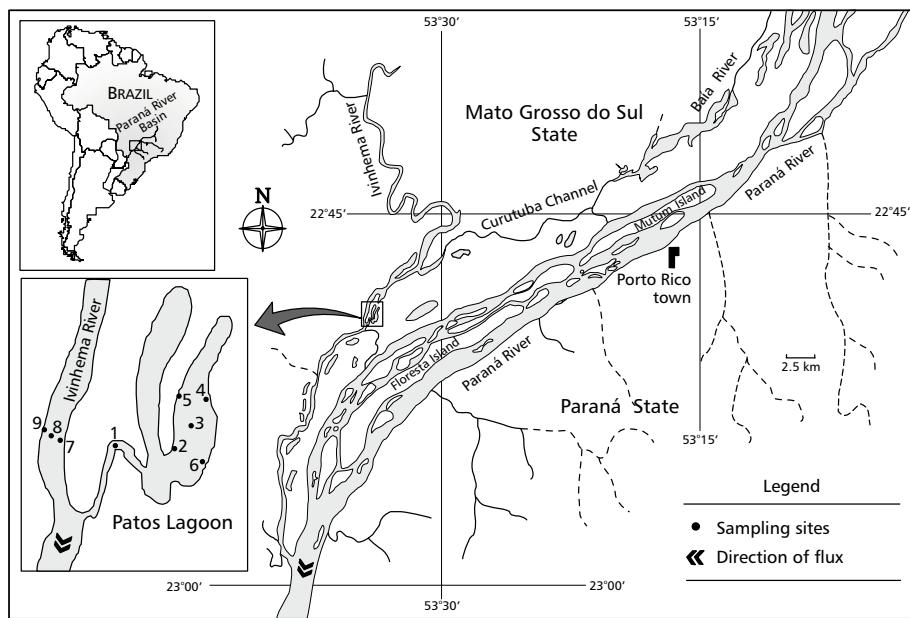


Fig. 1 — Study area and sampling sites in the Upper Paraná River floodplain, Brazil.

The samples were preserved in 4% buffered formalin. Identification of the species was based on Paggi (1972, 1975, 1979, 1980, 1983, 1987, 1995); Korinek (1981); Smirnov (1992, 1996); Korovchinsky (1992); and Elmoor-Loureiro (1997).

A constancy index (*c*) for each species per site was calculated according to Dajoz (1973). According to this index, constant species are those present in more than 50% of the samples; accessory species are those present in 25% to 50% of the samples, and accidental species are those present in up to 25% of the samples.

The occurrence and frequency of each species were obtained as follows: $S = n/N \cdot 100$, where n is the number of samples in which the species occurred and N is the total number of samples.

RESULTS

A total of 63 species of Cladocera were identified. Of these, twenty-four are new records for the Upper Paraná River floodplain, and one is a new record for Brazil. Chydoridae was the most representative family

with 19 genera and 39 species. Sididae followed with 3 genera and 7 species and Macrothricidae with 4 genera and 5 species (Fig. 2).

The following are new records for the Upper Paraná River floodplain: *Bosmina longirostris*, *Diaphanosoma polydiplosis*, *Latonopsis brevireme*, *Moina reticulata*, *Moinodaphnia macleayii*, *Guernella raphaelis*, *Alona cf. anodonta*, *A. cf. cambouei*, *A. fasciculata*, *A. cf. intermedia*, *A. verrucosa*, *Alonella excisa*, *Chydorus strictomarginatus*, *Chydorus parvireticulatus*, *C. nitidulus*, *Dadaya macrops*, *Ephemeroporus acanthodes*, *E. barroisi*, *E. hybridus*, *E. tridentatus*, *Eurycerus lamellatus*, *Kurzia longirostris*, *Oxyurella longicauda*, and *Pseudochydorus globulosus*. The occurrence of *C. strictomarginatus* is the first recorded for Brazil.

The most frequent species were: *Bosminopsis deitersi* (94%), *Ilyocryptus spinifer* (85%), *Disparalona dadayi* (84%), *Bosmina hagmanni* (74%), *Alona cf. fasciculata* (72%), *Chydorus pubescens* (71%), *C. eurynotus* (67%), and *Macrothrix spinosa* (65%).

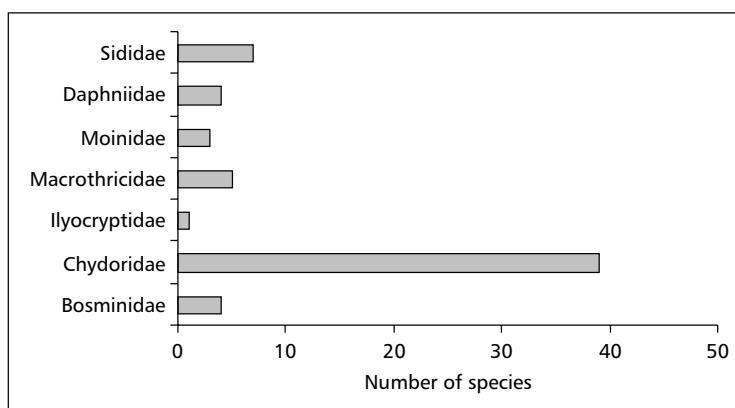


Fig. 2 — Number of cladoceran species per family found in the Upper Paraná River floodplain.

The greatest number of constant species was found in the littoral sampling sites of the lagoon (sites 2 and 5) and the river (site 7). The lowest number of constant species was found in the pelagic region of the canal and the lagoon (sites 1 and 3), and in the littoral region of the lagoon where *Panicum* was the dominant macrophyte (site 4). The Ivinhema River had a greater number of constant species than the lagoon did (Table 2) (Figure 3).

Bosminopsis deitersi, *Ilyocryptus spinifer*, and *Disparalona daday* were the only species constant at all sampling sites. *B. hagmanni*, *A. cf. fasciculata*, *C. pubescens*, *C. eurynotus*, and *M. spinosa* were constant at most sampling sites. However, *B. hagmanni* was classified as an accessory species in the littoral region of the lagoon, with large stands of *E. azurea* (site 2), and *M. spinosa* was classified as an accessory species in the pelagic region of both the canal and the lagoon (sites 1 e 3). Among the Chydoridae, *A. cf. fasciculata* was classified as an accessory species in the pelagic region of the lagoon (site 3); *C. pubescens* was classified as an accessory species in the pelagic region of the lagoon (site 3) and in the littoral region of the lagoon in the presence of *Panicum* sp. (site 4); and *C. eurynotus* was classified as an accessory species in the pelagic region of the lagoon (site 3) and in the littoral region of the lagoon near *Polygonum* sp. and *E. azurea* stands (site 6) (Table 2).

Alona monacantha was an accessory species at most sampling sites, but at site 2 near extensive stands of *E. azurea* it was constant. Thirty species were accidental in the entire study area. Of these, only *M. reticulata* was recorded at all sites. *Diaphanosoma birgei*, *Simocephalus serrulatus*, and *Leydigioopsis curvirostris* were registered at eight of the nine sampling sites. *Daphnia gessneri*, *D. polypina*, *D. spinulosum*, *Dadaya macrops*, *Eurycericus lamellatus*, *Ephemeropterus barroisi*, and *Pseudochydorus globulosus* were not observed in the Ivinhema River sites (Table 2). The greatest number of accidental species, 37, was observed in the pelagic region of the channel (site 1) and the least, 21, on the right bank of the river which did not have marginal vegetation (site 9).

DISCUSSION

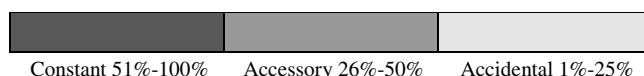
According to Korovchinsky (1996), the estimate of the number of fresh water cladoceran species in the world is in the range of 600. Of these, only 129 species can be considered as valid species or as sufficiently well described, while about 146 species are relatively well described, and the status of all other species is vague. The number of Cladocera species recorded in this study (63) is higher than the total recorded previously (40) from different environments of the Upper Paraná River floodplain (Lima *et al.*, 1996; Lansac-Tôha *et al.*, 1997).

TABLE 2
Faunistic inventory and constancy index at different sampling sites on the Upper Paraná River floodplain, Brazil.

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sididae									
<i>Diaphanosoma birgei</i> Korinek, 1981									
<i>Diaphanosoma brevireme</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Diaphanosoma fluviatile</i> Hansen, 1899									
<i>Diaphanosoma polyspina</i> Korovchinsky, 1982									
<i>Diaphanosoma spinulosum</i> Herbst, 1975									
<i>Latonopsis brevireme</i> Daday, 1905									
<i>Sarsilatona serricauda</i> (Sars, 1901)									
Daphniidae									
<i>Ceriodaphnia cornuta</i> Sars, 1886									
<i>Daphnia gessneri</i> Herbst, 1967									
<i>Simocephalus serrulatus</i> (Koch, 1841)									
<i>Simocephalus vetulus</i> Schödler, 1852									
Moinidae									
<i>Moina minuta</i> Hansen, 1899									
<i>Moina reticulata</i> (Daday, 1905)									
<i>Moinodaphnia macleayii</i> (King, 1853)									
Macrothricidae									
<i>Echinisca elegans</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Grimaldina brazzae</i> Richard, 1892									
<i>Guernella raphaelis</i> Richard, 1892									
<i>Macrothrix spinosa</i> King, 1953									
<i>Macrothrix triserialis</i> (Brady, 1886)									
Ilyocryptidae									
<i>Ilyocryptus spinifer</i> Herrick, 1884									
Chydoridae									
<i>Acroperus harpae</i> Baird, 1843									
<i>Alona affinis</i> (Leydig, 1986)									
<i>Alona cf. anodonta</i> Daday, 1905									
<i>Alona cf. cambouei</i> Guerne & Richard, 1853									
<i>Alona dentifera</i> (Sars, 1901)									
<i>Alona eximia</i> Kiser, 1948									
<i>Alona fasciculata</i> Daday, 1905									
<i>Alona glabra</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Alona cf. intermedia</i> Sars, 1862									
<i>Alona karua</i> King, 1853									
<i>Alona monacantha</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Alona verrucosa</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Alona</i> sp.									
<i>Alonella excisa</i> (Fischer, 1854)									
<i>Camptocercus dadayi</i> Stingelin, 1914									

TABLE 2 (Continued.)

Species	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Chydoridae									
<i>Chydorus eurynotus</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Chydorus parvireticulatus</i> Frey, 1987									
<i>Chydorus nitidulus</i> (Sars, 1901)									
<i>Chydorus pubescens</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Chydorus strictomarginatus</i> Paggi, 1972									
<i>Chydorus</i> sp.									
<i>Dadaya macrops</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Disparalona dadayi</i> (Birge, 1910)									
<i>Dunhevedia odontoplax</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Ephemeroporus cf. acanthodes</i> Frey, 1982									
<i>Ephemeroporus barroisi</i> (Richard, 1894)									
<i>Ephemeroporus cf. hybridus</i> (Daday, 1905)									
<i>Ephemeroporus tridentatus</i> (Bergamin, 1932)									
<i>Euryalona occidentalis</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Eurycerus lamellatus</i> (O. F. Müller, 1785)									
<i>Graptoleberis testudinaria</i> (Fisher, 1848)									
<i>Kurzia latissima</i> (Kurz, 1974)									
<i>Kurzia longirostris</i> (Daday, 1898)									
<i>Leydigia</i> sp.									
<i>Leydigiopsis curvirostris</i> Sars, 1901									
<i>Notoalona globulosa</i> (Daday, 1898)									
<i>Oxyurella ciliata</i> Bergamin, 1939									
<i>Oxyurella longicauda</i> (Birge, 1910)									
<i>Pseudochydorus globosus</i> (Baird, 1850)									
Bosminidae									
<i>Bosmina hagmanni</i> Stingelin, 1904									
<i>Bosmina longirostris</i> (O. F. Mueller, 1785)									
<i>Bosmina tubicen</i> Brehm, 1939									
<i>Bosminopsis deitersi</i> Richard, 1895									



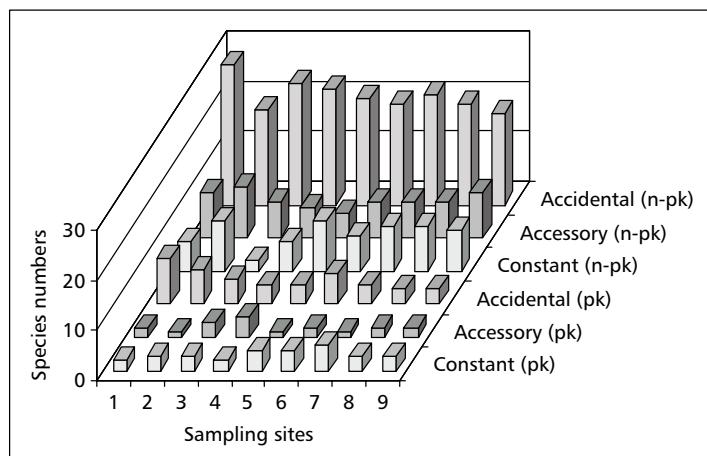


Fig. 3 — Constancy index of planktonic (pk) and non-planktonic (n-pk) cladoceran species at each sampling site.

With respect to other neotropical floodplain systems, Cladocera inventories have registered 68 species in rivers and lakes in the Central Amazon (Robertson, pers. com.), 62 species in the Orinoco River basin (Zoppi de Roa & Vásquez, 1991), and 90 species in the floodplain of the middle Paraná River in Argentina (Paggi & José de Paggi, 1990). Villar (1988) registered in different puruvian water bodies 76 species of which 31 were new records for Peru.

The addition of 24 new records raises the total number of Cladocera species known in the upper Paraná floodplain to 64. *Leydigiospis brevirostris*, *Onchobunops tuberculatus*, and *Scapholeberis* sp., previously recorded as accidentals by Lansac-Tôha *et al.* (1997) in the Upper Paraná floodplain, were not found in this study. *Chydorus strictomarginatus* is the first record for Brazil. It was originally described as a subspecies of *Chydorus eurynotus* in Argentina (Paggi, 1972).

The typical littoral families contributed most to species richness. Chydoridae was represented by 39 species, 16 being new occurrences for the study area. This is probably due to the intensive sampling near macrophyte stands that harbour the littoral species. According to Frey (1986), the number of chydorid species depends on the structural diversity of the habitat, and any environmental factor that increases the distribution and diversity of macrophyte stands should consequently increase the number of chydorid species.

Lima *et al.* (1996), suggest that the cladoceran community associated with macrophytes changes in composition depending on macrophyte stand size, because of the dominance of pelagic and horizontally migrating species in small macrophyte beds, and dominance of littoral, non-migrating species in larger beds. It is estimated that the neotropical Chydoridae are represented by 25 genera distributed among three subfamilies (Paggi, 1995). The most representative genera in this study were *Alona*, *Chydorus*, *Disparalona*, and *Ephemeropterus*. The most constant species were *Disparalona dadayi* and *Chydorus eurynotus*, which are amply distributed on the Upper Paraná River floodplain (Lansac-Tôha *et al.*, 1997). Another littoral species common on the floodplain is *Ilyocryptus spinifer*. The pelagic species *B. deitersi*, *B. hagmanni*, *C. cornuta*, and *M. minuta* are also frequent and often dominant on other floodplains (Brandorff *et al.*, 1982; Robertson & Hardy, 1984; Saunders III & Lewis-Jr., 1989; Paggi & José de Paggi, 1990; Bozelli *et al.*, 1992; Sendacz, 1997).

Inventories of cladoceran species richness in neotropical floodplains are still few, basically because of the scarcity of studies dealing with the littoral fauna. The great number of species of Cladocera registered in the floodplain of the Amazon and the middle Paraná River is probably due to the fact that these areas have been studied for a longer time, and it is also probable that further studies in the upper Paraná floodplain will reveal more species.

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