

THE MAYFLY GENUS *BAETISCA* IN WESTERN
NORTH AMERICA

(Ephemeroptera: Baetiscidae)

GEORGE F. EDMUNDS, JR.¹*University of Utah, Salt Lake City*

With one possible exception, no records of the mayfly genus *Baetisca* are reported from western North America. Eaton (1885, Trans. Linn. Soc. London, 2nd Ser. Zool., 3:229) reported *Baetisca obesa* from California. The record never has been repeated nor confirmed, and considering the subsequent distribution record of species of the genus the record has been largely ignored.

In many years of study of the mayfly fauna of western North America only two specimens of the genus *Baetisca* have been sent to me for identification. The first was a young nymph collected in 1948 by John L. Steele from the Big Laramie River, Albany County, Wyoming. The specimen represented an apparently undescribed species, probably nearest *Baetisca bajkovi* Neave. The nymph was returned to Mr. Steele at the Department of Zoology, University of Wyoming. I have been unable to locate it for subsequent study.

A second specimen of *Baetisca* was collected in the Columbia River, Washington, by J. J. Davis in 1948. There is little doubt but what the species is undescribed, and that it is distinct from the Wyoming species. In Traver's² keys to the North American species of nymphs the specimen runs to *B. callosa* Traver. The new species differs from *B. callosa* in the shape of the mesonotum, in having postero-lateral spines on abdominal segments 6-9, in lacking a black band at the base of the terminal filaments, and in having a better developed apical projection on the second segment of the labial palpi.

I would like to thank Mr. J. J. Davis for making the specimen available for study, and David I. Rasmussen and Richard K. Allen for the figure.

BAETISCA COLUMBIANA Edmunds, new species

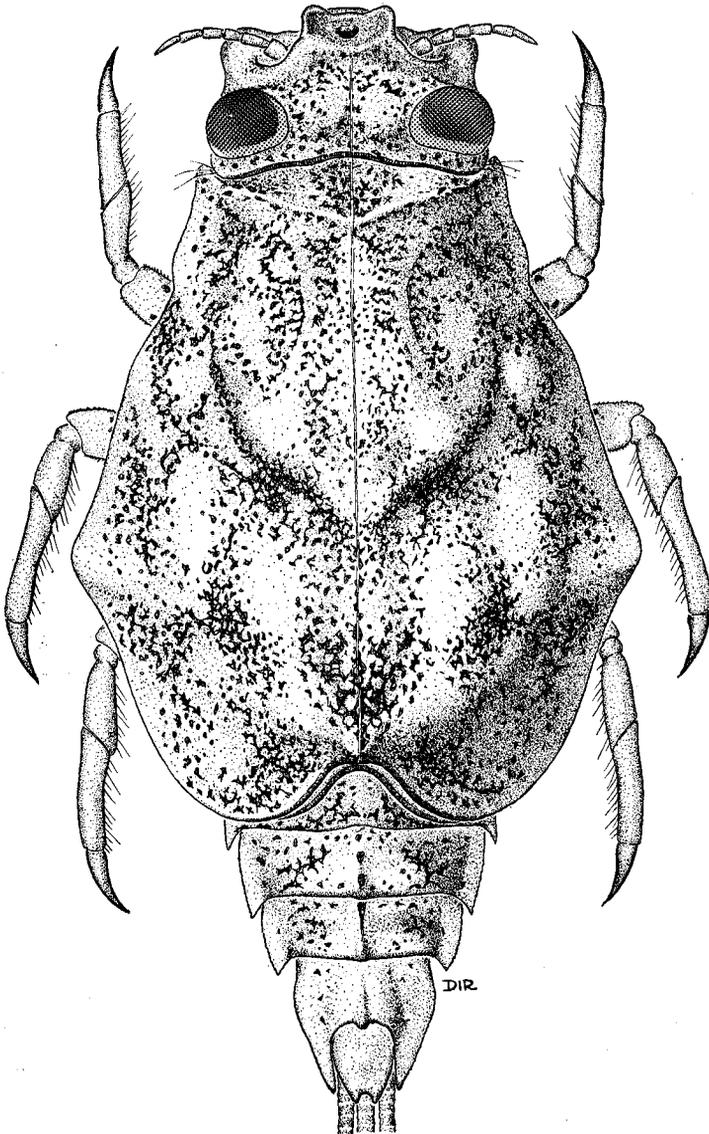
(Fig. 1)

Length, body 6 mm., terminal filaments 2 mm. *Color*, body light brown, with dark brown mottling and spots as in figure 1. Dark spots on venter larger and more sparse than on dorsum. Eyes black. Antennae pale smoky

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²Traver, J. R., 1935, in: *The Biology of Mayflies*. Comstock Pub. Co., Ithaca, N.Y., 759 pp.

brown. Tails smoky brown. Genal and frontal projections pale, margined with smoky brown. A distinct larger dark spot at the base of the coxal insertion of each meso- and metathoracic leg. The tibiae and tarsi without



EXPLANATION OF FIGURE

Fig. 1. Dorsal view of holotype nymph of *Baetisca columbiana* Edmunds.

dark spots. Claws smoky brown, becoming darker apically. *Head*, with genal projections extending only to front, rounded; frontal projections small, rounded; apex of second segment of maxillary palpi produced into a finger-like projection. *Thorax*, mesonotum moderately wide and only moderately humped; without lateral mesonotal spines, only a gently rounded protuberance: no dorsal mesonotal spines. Claws moderately long and tapered. *Abdomen*, tergites 7 and 8 without a median spine, a poorly developed one on 9. Entire body covered with fine tubercles, giving a granular texture; these tubercles are much fainter on the tibiae and tarsi.

Holotype nymph, COLUMBIA RIVER, PASCO, FRANKLIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON, November 4, 1948 (J. J. Davis), deposited in collection of California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco.
