PSEUDOCLOEON AQUACIDUM: A NEW SUBJECTIVE SYNONYM OF P. LATUM (EPHEMEROPTERA: BAETIDAE)

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ABSTRACT: Pseudocloeon aquacidum is determined to be a junior subjective synonym of P. latum.

Agnew (1961) described Baetis latus (Ephemeroptera: Baetidae) from one male adult, one female subimago, and an unspecified number of larvae from the Great Berg River, Western Cape, South Africa. Recently, Lugo-Ortiz et al. (1999) transferred the species to Pseudocloeon Klapálek. Agnew's (1961) description of the larvae is too general and obviates several important morphological features, and his drawings of one of the labial palps (Agnew 1961: Fig. 3c) and two of the gills (Agnew 1961: Figs. 3d,e) are too sketchy to allow reliable comparisons with actual specimens. As a consequence, since its description, P. latum has been somewhat enigmatic and a considerable source of confusion among taxonomists and freshwater ecologists.

We have discovered that Pseudocloeon aquacidum (Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty), originally described from larvae from several localities in Kenya and South Africa under Labiobaetis Novikova and Kluge (Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty 1997), is equivalent to P. latum. Our discovery is based on the examination of four of the larval paratypes of B. latus and numerous larvae housed in the Albany Museum (Grahamstown, South Africa) previously identified either as P. aquacidum or P. latum. All specimens examined possessed a distinctive distolateral process on the antennal scapes, a single submarginal dorsal row of five to seven branched setae on the labrum, right and left mandibles with 3 + 4 incisors, a distomedially concave maxillary palp segment 2, a broad and blunt distomedial process on labial palp segment 2, hindwing pads, and well-tracheated gills on abdominal segments 1-7. Moreover, we could not identify any morphological features or coloration differences that would distinguish specimens assigned to either species. We therefore consider P. aquacidum a junior subjective synonym of P. latum. The synonymy for P. latum is now as follows:

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In addition, Harrison and Elsworth (1958) and Oliff (1960) refer to \textit{P. latum} as \textit{Baetis} sp. B and \textit{Baetis} sp. 2, respectively (Agnew 1961).

The description and figures provided by Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty (1997: Figs. 1-13) for \textit{P. aquacidum} should be consulted to identify \textit{P. latum} properly.


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LITERATURE CITED