

Taxonomic key for direct identification of some mayfly nymphs (Order: Ephemeroptera) of Sri Lanka

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ABSTRACT

Mayfly nymphs (Order: Ephemeroptera) are very common among the macro invertebrate assemblages in lotic on freshwater habitats of Sri Lanka. Identification of mayfly nymphs to lower taxons including the family level is a difficult task due to the unavailability of references and keys relevant to Sri Lanka. The nymphs were collected from several streams, i.e., Hakgala Dola, Pitawala Dola, Somerset Estate tributary, a tributary of Mahaweli Ganga in Peradeniya, Aswathu Oya in Puwakpitiya, and two other streams in Ruwanwella and Karawanella. The morphology of nymphs were studied at suitable magnifications and they were identified to the lowest possible taxa using the existing information.

The nymphs belonging to the families Baetidae, Leptophlebiidae, Caenidae and Prosoptistomatidae were identified during the present study. Baetids included the genera *Baetis* (*B. collinus* and *B. frequentus*), *Indobaetis* (*I. costai*) and *Centroptella* (mainly *C. ceylonensis*). A total of four genera of leptophlebiids, namely, *Choroterpes*, *Kimminsula*, *Megaglana* and *Isca* were also identified. A taxonomic key was prepared for the quick identification of the nymphs collected during this study.

This research was funded by the Kelaniya University Research Grant RP/03/02/07/03/97.