

***PSEUDOCLOEON AQUACIDUM*: A NEW
SUBJECTIVE SYNONYM OF *P. LATUM*
(EPHEMEROPTERA: BAETIDAE)¹**

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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, hindwingpads, 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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Baetis latus Agnew 1961: 16.

Labiobaetis aquacidus Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty 1997: 242. **New synonym.**

Pseudocloeon latum (Agnew) (Lugo-Ortiz et al. 1999: 24.

Pseudocloeon aquacidum (Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty): Lugo-Ortiz et al. 1999: 24. **New synonym.**

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

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

The range of *P. latum* extends considerably from southern Africa to Kenya (Agnew 1961, Lugo-Ortiz and McCafferty 1997). According to Harrison and Elsworth (1958), Oliff (1960), Agnew (1961), Chutter (1963, 1970), Oliff and King (1964), and Palmer (1996), *P. latum* is found in slow-flowing waters, or out of current, in marginal vegetation.

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