

An additional larval type in the genus *Chironomus* – the yama-type

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Currently there are nine larval types in the genus *Chironomus* based on the presence, absence or structure of the lateral and ventral tubules (Proulx et al. 2013). We are now proposing a tenth type based on the posterior prolegs and the arrangement of the anal tubules – the yama-type.

The reason for adding this type and the basis of the name is as follows:

In 1980, Sublette and Martin described a new genus *Yama*, closely related to *Chironomus*. An unusual feature of the larva of *Yama*, not specifically mentioned in the description but illustrated in their figure 5a is the relatively long, rather tanypodine-like posterior prolegs, along with a 'star' arrangement of the anal tubules.

Recently, one of us (DSC) collected very similar larvae from Manipur, India. While the full details of this Indian species have yet to be clarified, it is clear that it is not in the genus *Yama*, but in *Chironomus*, although possibly a new subgenus. Under the current classification, this larva would be a salinarius-type, since it lacks lateral and ventral tubules. However, it is recognizably different from all other salinarius-type larvae, and indeed all other larval-types, in the greater length of the posterior prolegs (about 4 times longer than wide cf. about 2 times longer than wide) and the star-like arrangement of the anal tubules (Fig. 1).

Since it is possible other similar larvae may be found, we suggest that a separate larval type, the yama-type be created for such larvae. If anyone knows of a species with such a larva, we would appreciate the information.

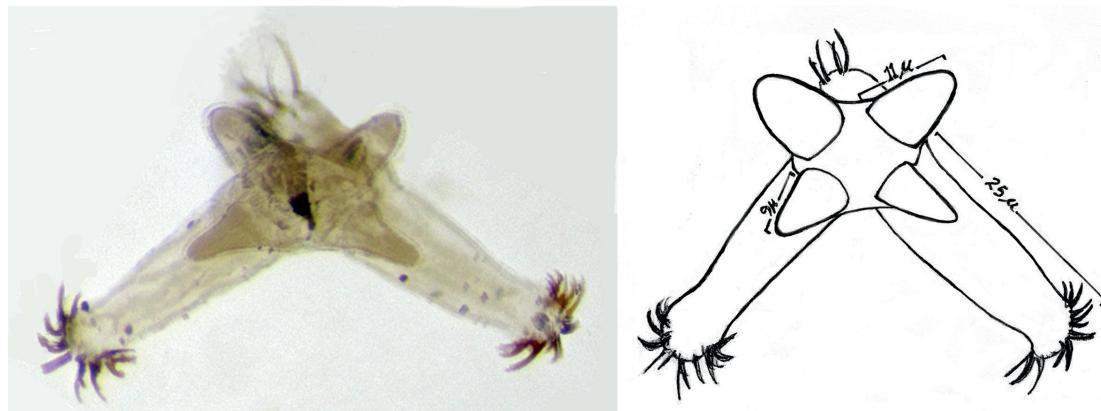


Figure 1. Photograph (left) and drawing (right) of the posterior prolegs and anal tubules of a yama-type larva.

References

- Proulx, I., Martin, J. Carew, M. and Hare, L. 2013. Using various lines of evidence to identify *Chironomus* species in eastern Canadian lakes. *Zootaxa* 3741: 401-458. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.11164/zootaxa.3741.4.1>
- Sublette, J.E. and Martin, J. 1980. *Yama tahitiensis* n.gen., n.sp. from Tahiti (Diptera: Chironomidae). *Pan-Pacific Entomologist* 56: 221-237.

Article submitted 13. December 2016, accepted by Torbjørn Ekrem 13. December 2016, published 15. December 2016.