NOTE

_Baetis magnus_, new species, formal new name for _Baetis_ sp. B of Morihara and McCafferty
(Ephemeroptera: Baetidae)

Morihara and McCafferty (1979. Trans. Am. Entomol. Soc. 105: 139–221) described two unique larval specimens from Arizona and New Mexico as _Baetis_ sp. B. Although an adequately comparative description was presented, a formal name and new species were not established because of the paucity of material and knowledge of species variability at that time. Since then, we have examined over 200 similar specimens from western U.S.A., especially the Pine Ridge area of far western Nebraska, that fully substantiate the existence of a distinctive yet unnamed species as was earlier hypothesized.


Mature larvae of _B. magnus_, which range in length from 7 to 13 mm (not including caudal filaments), resemble large larvae of _Baetis tricaudatus_ Dodds, a species also placed in the _rhodani_ group (Morihara and McCafferty, 1979). Even in the field, however, these two species are separable by the more elongate gills of _B. magnus_ (length ca. 1.5 × width) vs. those of _B. tricaudatus_ (length subequal to width). Whereas _B. tricaudatus_ is a widespread, variable, and relatively ubiquitous species in North America, _B. magnus_ apparently is found only disjunctly in small, mostly spring-fed streams of the West, sometimes coexisting with _B. tricaudatus_. Additional characteristics that distinguish _B. magnus_ were given by Morihara and McCafferty (1979), but note that _B. magnus_ will key to _B. sp. A_, not _B. sp. B_, in the larval key presented there due to an inadvertent transcription error. Because we possess only one reared female subimago of _B. magnus_ and one associated but not reared male adult, and because adults of the _rhodani_ group are essentially inseparable at the species level on the basis of current information, any description of the adult at this time would be tenuous.