Additions and corrections to the Ephemeroptera of Alaska

McCafferty (1985. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 87: 381–386) listed 17 nominal species of mayflies from Alaska. An additional eight species found in the Yukon were listed as highly probable Alaskan residents. Since then, Brachycercus arcticus Soldán was described from Alaskan material by Soldán (1986. Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Biologica 5-6, 1982–1984: 289–362), and Baetis tricuatus Dodds and B. bicaudatus Dodds were noted in an Alaskan ecological study by Milner (1987. Freshwater Biology 18: 53–70). Brachycercus represents a new generic record for the region. I have recently confirmed the B. bicaudatus record with a large series of larvae taken by R. W. Baldwin in 1991 at Answer Creek near Talkeetna, Alaska (62°17′N, 149°35′W). None of these additional Alaskan species have been reported from the Yukon.

Ephemerella inermis Eaton was first reported from Alaska by Edmunds, Jensen and Berner (1976. The mayflies of North and Central America. University of Minnesota Press). However, according to data given by Johnson (1978. Pan-Pacific Entomologist 54: 19–25), the symmorphic species E. infrequens McDunnough should be the species represented in Alaska, not E. inermis.

Morihara and McCafferty (1979. Proceedings of the Entomological Society of Washington 81: 34–37) synonymized the North American species Baetis bundyae Lehmkühl with the European species Baetis macani Kimmins, recognizing it instead as a geographic subspecies B. macani bundyae in North America (including Alaska). Recently, Engblom (pers. comm.) has confirmed that both typical macani populations and typical bundyae populations are sympatric in Scandinavia. This fact suggests that subspecies recognition is not valid, but instead that one variable species or two species are represented. Because the strictly typical macani form has not been found in North America, I am here recognizing B. bundyae s. auctt. again as the valid North American species. Thus it, not B. macani, should appear on the Alaska list.

A previous record of Metretopus borealis (Eaton) larvae in Alaska, given by Berner (1978. Transactions of the American Entomological Society 104: 91–137) was missed by McCafferty (1985). Based on Berner’s Figure 43, this record is actually referable to M. alter Bengtsson and as such represents the first North American record of this otherwise Palearctic species.

Several of the Alaskan species have been shown to be circumpolar (McCafferty 1985; Flowers. 1986. Entomological News 97: 193–197). I recently have seen material of B. bicaudatus from Siberia, and thus this common western North American species should be added to those species known to be Holarctic.

This paper has been assigned Purdue Experiment Station Journal No. 13750.

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