NOTE

Rediscovery of Fallceon eatoni (Kimmins) (Ephemeroptera: Baetidae)

Certain adult small minnow mayflies (Baetidae) from the 19th Century Godman and Salvin collections made in Mexico and Central America (now residing in the British Museum) were one of three species reported by Eaton (1892) as new but unnamed species of Baetis Leach. This small series from northern Sonora was restudied by Kimmins (1934) and described as B. eatoni Kimmins. Waltz and McCafferty (1987) recombined this species with the genus Fallceon Waltz and McCafferty based on its distinctive male genitalia. Although the F. eatoni had later been deemed synonymous with the ubiquitous F. quilleri (Dodds) (McCafferty and Waltz 1991), my subsequent examination of type material showed that the hindwing costal process was not hooked as in F. quilleri, and that the terminal segment of the genital forceps was more developed than in the latter species. Thus, F. eatoni was revalidated (McCafferty and Lugo-Ortiz 1994), but its continued existence has been questionable because it has not been known since its original collection well over 100 years ago.

Among unidentified materials from Salt River Canyon in Arizona that were recently collected and donated by Will Reeves (Atlanta), I found a single specimen of Baetidae that proved to be F. eatoni (Arizona, Gila Co., Salt River Canyon, IV-18-2005, W. K. Reeves, deposited in the Purdue Entomological Research Collection). The rediscovery of this species is significant in that it not only establishes the species’ continued existence, but it provides first USA and Arizona records. Because of possible low numbers of populations and restricted distribution, it may be considered a species of environmental concern.

LITERATURE CITED


W. P. McCafferty, Department of Entomology, Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN 47907, U.S.A. (e-mail: mccaffer@purdue.edu)