

6 July 2020

Dr. Fernando Alvarez, Editor-in-Chief
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Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad
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Dr. Alvarez:

With this cover letter, I am submitting a manuscript for your evaluation, requesting consideration for its publication in Revista Mexicana de Biodiversidad. Both authors have agreed to publish in your journal. This is an original manuscript that has not been published or submitted elsewhere. The other manuscript from me, which you have already pre-reviewed, will be submitted in the near future. I will serve as the corresponding author on both manuscripts.

Thomson, Robin E. and Brian J. Armitage (ORCID: <https://orcid.org/0000-0003-3182-1533>)

The Trichoptera of Panama. XV. Seven new species and four new country records of microcaddisflies (Insecta: Trichoptera: Hydroptilidae) from Mount Totumas Cloud Forest and Biological Reserve

Relevance: Although the percentage of shared microcaddisfly species for Panama with Mexico and Costa Rica is relatively small (<7% and <10%, respectively), some of these have interesting biogeographic connections. Also, with the exception of Mexico and Costa Rica, most of Central America is notoriously under-collected. As a result, we see perhaps exaggerated numbers of endemic species, which would otherwise be diminished by additional field work. The four new country records in this manuscript are a case in point, as they were previously only known from Costa Rica.

I have made every attempt to follow your guidelines to authors in preparation of this manuscript. Because this is the first paper I have submitted to your journal, I have no doubt failed in some regards. I stand ready to correct any oversights in a timely fashion. The figures are presented here in PDF format, but I have appropriately configured TIFF and JPEG versions available if this manuscript is approved for publication. My one question concerns your guideline item about series numbers in the title. We have adopted this approach here in Panama because the funding/granting agencies consider this as reassurance of permanence and continuity in terms of our good intentions to maintain a research effort. I hope this will not be a major problem for this or the next submission.

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Thanking you for your consideration of this manuscript, I close,
With kind regards, Brian J. Armitage, Ph.D.

