

MARÍA DEL CARMEN ZÚÑIGA

(1944 -)

Fields: Taxonomy

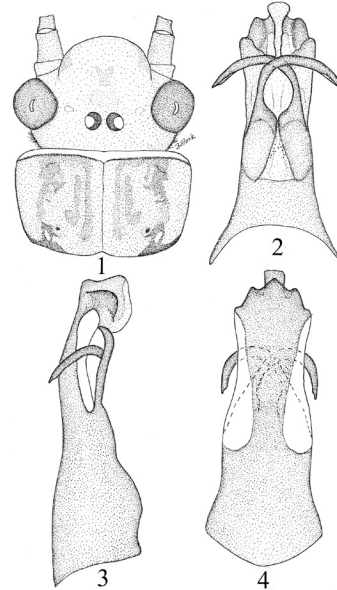
Subject: Aquatic insects

Nationality: Colombian

ENTOMOLOGIST of the MONTH



From Universidad del Valle; Accessed Dec 2022



From Zúñiga et al. (2006)

María del Carmen Zúñiga is a Colombian researcher renowned for her studies on aquatic insects and especially for the description of several new species for South America. She was born in Popayán, Colombia and obtained degrees in chemical technology and biology from the Universidad del Valle in Cali, Colombia. She later obtained a master's in environmental engineering and in 2018 received an honorary doctoral degree in Biology from the same university for her contributions on the ecology and taxonomy of aquatic insects. Her work has focused on stoneflies, mayflies, caddisflies, and aquatic beetles. She has described nearly 50 new species and reported new records of aquatic insects in Colombia. Additionally, Dr. Zúñiga has contributed to research on water quality and the environmental impact of toxic residues in Colombia. After her retirement in 1998, she continued to do research in the biology department at Universidad del Valle and co-founded the aquatic insects' collection at the entomological museum (MUSENUV). The stonefly collection at MUSENUV is one of the largest in the Neotropics. She has co-authored several books including "South American Stoneflies (Plecoptera)" which is the basis for identification of stoneflies in the Neotropics. Dr. Zúñiga continues to mentor students and build collaborations throughout South America to study the undescribed diversity of insects in aquatic environments.

References:

- Stark, B.P., Froehlich, C & M.C. Zúñiga. 2009. South American Stoneflies (Plecoptera). Volume 5. Aquatic Biodiversity in Latin America. Pensoft, Sofia-Moscow. 154 pp.
- Universidad del Valle. "Candidatura María del Carmen Zúñiga Solarte a la distinción Doctorado Honoris Causa en Biología". Accessed December 1st 2022: bit.ly/3P508MQ
- Zúñiga, M.C., Stark, B.P., Vásquez, J.J., Bersosa, F & L.D. Vimos. 2006. Colombian and Ecuadorian Anacroneuria (Plecoptera: Perlidae): seven new species, records and life stages. *Studies on Neotropical Fauna and Environment*, 41(1): 45-57.
- This factsheet was produced by Stephania Sandoval Arango, a graduate student in Dept. of Entomology, Penn State

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