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PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF THE DIVERSITY OF CHIRONOMIDAE (DIPTERA) PRESENT IN WATER COURSES IN CATAMARCA

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The diversity of Chironomidae larvae was studied in two water courses in Catamarca, the Río River and El Simbolar Stream. They are both located in ecoregions, the former in the Puna and the latter in the Chaco Serrano. The aim of this paper was to analyze the diversity of Chironomidae in relation to environmental variables in watercourses in Catamarca. Sampling was performed in periods of high and low water, using a Surber sampler (300 μ and 0.09 m²). The environmental parameters were recorded: conductivity, pH, dissolved oxygen, total dissolved solids, total hardness, carbonate, bicarbonate, chloride, calcium, magnesium, organic matter, current velocity, water temperature and riparian vegetation. A total of 38 taxa were registered; Orthocladiinae (25 larvae), Chironomidae (5 larvae), Tanyptodinae (2 larvae), Podonominae (2 larvae) and Diamesinae (3 larvae). The diversity index conforming to the periods of high and low water was: Río River 2.34 and 2.91 and El Simbolar 3.15 and 1.32. High levels of diversity were found in both water courses, reflecting the high biological diversity and conservation status of the studied sites.

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NEW RECORDS FOR *GEASTRUM* PERS. FROM CATAMARCA PROVINCE, ARGENTINA

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The genus *Geastrum* Persoon (*Agaricomycetes*, *Phallomycetidae*) represents the evolution of one of the more specialized forms of basidiomes found among the gasteroid fungi. It is characterized by the exoperidium that splits into a variable number of rays. These exoperidial rays serve to protect the endoperidial body and facilitate spore dispersal. Spores are released through a single apical pore. *Geastrum* Pers. has very diverse habitats, from forests to arid regions.

As a part of an integral study of the mycobiota in Catamarca province, we made seasonal field work in different phytogeographical regions where basidiomata were collected. The study and the descriptions were made on the collected material, following the methodology and terminology of Sunhede (1989). The specimens collected were deposited in the University of Buenos Aires Herbarium (BAFC) and in the private herbarium M.M.Dios (FACEN, UNCa).

These records from Catamarca province are new: *G. arenarium* Lloyd, *G. campestre* var. *famatinum* Kuhar & Papinutti, *G. dissimile* Bottomley, *G. hariotii* Lloyd, *G. hungaricum* Hollós, *G. pampeanum* var. *pampeanum* Spég., *G. parvistriatum* J.C Zamora & Calonge, *G. saccatum* Fr., *G. saccatum* var. *parvulum* Spég., *G. striatum* DC and *G. triplex* Jungh.

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***DINEMASPORIUM* LÉV. (XYLARIALES, ASCOMYCOTA): FIRST REFERENCE FOR CATAMARCA PROVINCE, ARGENTINA**

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Dinemasporium (Xylariales, Ascomycota) genus was created by Léveillé in 1846. In Argentina, *Dinemasporium canadense* Morgan-Jones was cited in the Espinal region (Allegrucci et al., 2007). The genus is characterized by presenting a superficial, cupuliform to discoid conidiomata with setae; phialidic conidiogenous cells, and hyaline, oblong to allantoid conidia with one setula at each end. It is a large heterogeneous genus.

With the objective of contributing to the knowledge of the fungal diversity associated with plant communities from Catamarca province ecoregions, we studied and analyzed seasonal collections from La Merced de Allpatauca Wildlife Shelter, located in San Antonio town, Fray M. Esquiú department, Catamarca province. The samples were analyzed according to standard laboratory protocols, and the taxonomic determination was made based on specific keys. *Dinemasporium* specimens were identified, growing on *Tillandsia* sp. (eye-RAHN-thos) dead leaves (phyllodes), collected from mulch. *Dinemasporium* genus is cited for the first time in Catamarca and NOA (Northwestern Argentina).