The distribution of species of the genus *Thermocyclops* (Copepoda, Cyclopoida) in the western hemisphere, with description of T. parvus, new species

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Abstract

The distribution and ecology of species of cyclopoid copepods of the genus Thermocyclops in the western hemisphere are reviewed. These are: Thermocyclops brehmi (Kiefer), T. crassus (Fischer), T. decipiens (Kiefer), T. hastatus antillensis Herbst, T. inversus (Kiefer), T. minutus (Lowndes), T. tenuis (Marsh), T. tenuis longifurcatus Pesce, and T. parvus, new species. T. brehmi is known from microlimnotopes in a restricted region in northern Argentina and Uruguay, while T. crassus has been reliably recorded only from small ponds in Costa Rica. T. decipiens, with many records from northern Argentina to Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Antilles, is often numerous in mesotrophic and eutrophic lakes and reservoirs. The range of T. minutus extends over tropical and subtropical lowlands of South America from northern Argentina to Venezuela; this species prefers oligotrophic and mesotrophic conditions in larger lakes. T. inversus may prefer mildly carbonate waters and inhabits large and small reservoirs, natural lakes, ponds, wells and caves from northeastern Brazil to Mexico and the Antilles. T. tenuis ranges from northern Argentina to the Antilles and the southern United States, inhabiting large and small, natural and artificial bodies of water. T. tenuis longifurcatus is known only from two wells on Bonaire, T. hastatus antillensis from a well on the island of Guadeloupe, and T. parvus only from plankton samples from the Florida Everglades. Knowledge of population dynamics, feeding and reproductive biology of several planktonic species is reviewed.

Introduction

More than 51 species and subspecies have been distinguished within the cyclopoid copepod genus *Thermocyclops* Kiefer, 1927. Herbst (1986) has recently reviewed world records, compared morphology of several species, and furnished a key to females. Although a few species of *Thermocyclops* occur in temperate Eurasia, most inhabit the tropical belt: Africa south of the Sahara, Australia and tropical and subtropical regions of Asia and the Americas. Several species, such as T. crassus (=T. hyalinus) and T. decipiens are often the dominant crustacean zooplankters in large meso-trophic and eutrophic lakes and reservoirs; therefore an understanding of their geographical and ecological distribution is of particular significance to limnologists. Nevertheless, such studies are frequently impeded by taxonomic confusion among closely related species. Errors of identification

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sometimes have been corrected in the literature (Burgis, 1970); many have not. The need exists for reviews of species records, so that the ranges, habitats and ecological preferences of individual species can be accurately characterized.

Nine species or subspecies of Thermocyclops are now known to occur in the western hemisphere; of these, seven occur primarily as plankters: Thermocyclops brehmi (Kiefer, 1927), T. crassus (Fischer, 1853), T. decipiens (Kiefer, 1929), T. inversus (Kiefer, 1936), T. minutus (Lowndes, 1934), T. tenuis (Marsh, 1910), and T. parvus, new species. The remaining two species have been described from groundwater habitats: T. tenuis longifurcatus Pesce (1985) from two wells in Bonaire, and T. hastatus antillensis Herbst (1986) from a well on Guadeloupe (Fig. 17). An additional species, T. orghidani was described by Plesa (1981) from several caves in Cuba. Unfortunately, Plesa's description is seriously incomplete and may refer to a species of Mesocyclops (Herbst, 1986). The groundwater species are not treated further in this article.

The discrimination of most species of Thermocvclops (by some authors still treated as a subgenus of Mesocyclops) is based on a series of microcharacters which until recently have not been well-defined in the literature generally available to the non-specialist. Compounding the problem has been the lack of identification keys and comprehensive species lists for neotropical aquatic invertebrate fauna, a lacuna only recently begun to be filled (for example Collado, Fernando & Sephton, 1984; Dussart et al., 1984; Hurlbert, 1978: Hurlbert & Villalobos-Figueroa, 1982; Hurlbert et al., 1981; Reid, 1985; Smith & Fernando, 1978, 1980). In many cases, workers in neotropical areas have perforce relied on keys to European and North American faunas, resulting in 'a literature that contains innumerable gross mistakes and often cannot be trusted' (Dumont & Tundisi, 1984).

Records of *Thermocyclops* obtained from personal collections as well as additional information and specimens made available to me by colleagues are summarized here, in order to correct numerous erroneous records and to collate present knowledge of the distributions and preferred habitats of the species of *Thermocyclops* in the western hemisphere. A new species is described.

Thermocyclops parvus, new species

Material. – \bigcirc holotype, United States National Museum – USNM 234135; \eth allotype, USNM 234136; $1\eth$ paratype, USNM 234137, all from undated sample; $2\heartsuit 2 \eth$ paratypes, Site 06C, April 1986, USNM 234138; $16\heartsuit 1 \eth$ paratypes, Site 23, May 1986, USNM 234139; other paratype material in collections of Everglades National Park. All from Shark River Slough, Everglades National Park, Florida, USA; undated sample from *Eleocharis* sp. marshes, northeast section of slough; Site 06C at 25° 37.2' N 80° 43.9' W; Site 23 at 25° 40.0' N 80° 36.9' W. Coll. R. Conrow.

Female. – Length of holotype 480 μ m: lengths of 10 paratypes $450-490 \mu m$. Prosome (Fig. 1) oval, much broader than urosome; sides of fourth prosomite rounded, expanded posteriorly, reaching middle of fifth prosomite; fifth prosomite lacking ornamentation. Genital segment (Figs. 1, 2) about 1.3 X longer than broad. Seminal receptacle (Figs. 2, 2a) with narrow, posteriorly recurved lateral arms and almost equally narrow posterior extension, and with broad lateral cuticular frame. Posterior margin of anal somite with fine spinules; anal operculum convex. Caudal rami 2.5 X longer than broad; measurements of caudal setae of holotype as follows: lateral 17, dorsal 35, outermost to innermost terminal 32, 112, 135, 43 µm. Lateral seta plumose, or in some specimens with 1 setule as illustrated. Outermost terminal caudal seta stout, more than 3X width of innermost terminal seta. Next innermost terminal caudal seta with tip bent anteriorly.

Antennule (Fig. 3) of 17 articles, extending past posterior margin of first prosomite; article 12 with slender esthetasc. Article 1 of antenna (Fig. 4) with only 2 setae and lacking ornamentation on surface; article 3 with 4 setae. Remaining mouthparts as in Figs. 5-8.

Legs 1-4 (Figs. 9-12) each with rami of 3 articles. Spine formula 2,3,3,3; legs 2 and 3 with

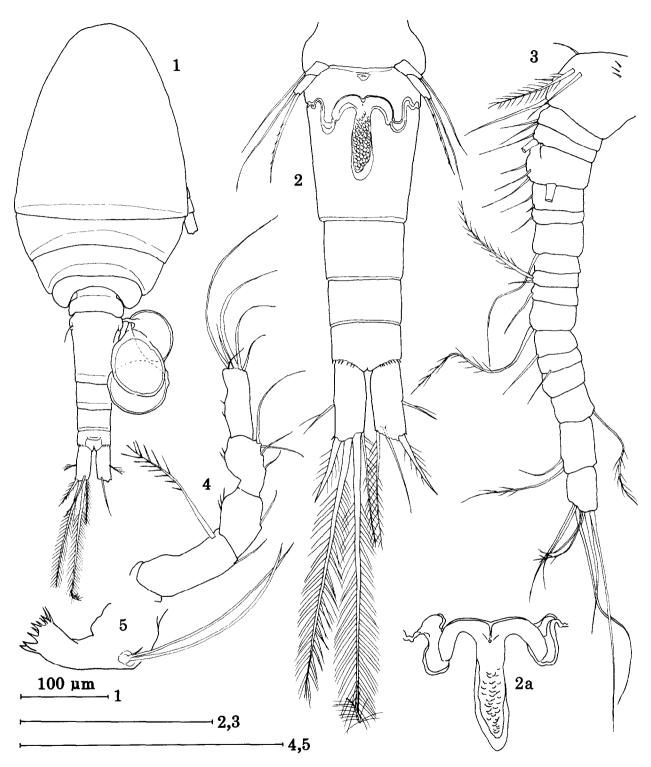


Fig. 1-5. Thermocyclops parvus, new species, female: 1, habitus; 2, urosome, ventral; 2a, seminal receptacle of a second specimen, slightly enlarged; 3, antennule; 4, antenna; 5, mandible.

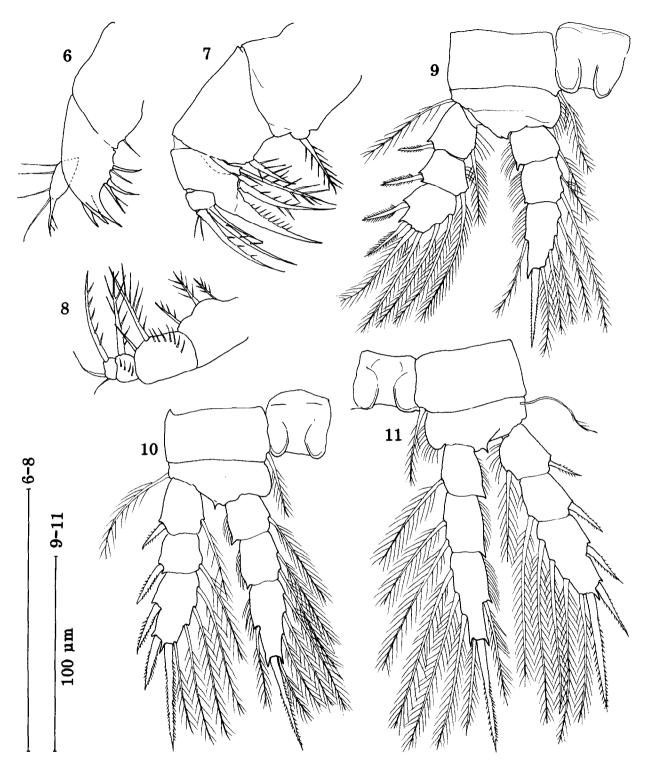


Fig. 6-11. Thermocyclops parvus, new species, female: 6, maxillule; 7, maxilla; 8, maxilliped; 9, leg 1; 10, leg 2; 11, leg 3.

stouter exopodal spines, and with longer spines on exopod 3 than those of legs 1 and 4. Basipod of leg 1 lacking spine on inner distal margin. Connecting plate of basipod of leg 4 without ornamentation and with convex margin. Leg 4 endopod 3, length 31 μ m, breadth 12 μ m, thus about 2.6X longer than broad; lengths of outer and inner terminal spines 12 and 34 μ m respectively.

Leg 5 (Fig. 2) normal for genus; outer terminal seta slightly longer than inner subterminal spine. Leg 6 (Fig. 1) inserted somewhat dorsally on genital segment, consisting of small prominence bearing single seta. Holotype and other egg-bearing females with 3 eggs each side.

Male. – Length of allotype 470 μ m; of paratypes 430–470 μ m. Habitus, caudal rami and caudal setae (Fig. 14) much as female. Antennule (Fig. 15) geniculate, article 1 with 3 esthetascs and articles 4 and 9 each with 1 esthetasc; esthetasc of article 9 longer and broader than those of other articles. Mouthparts, swimming legs and leg 5 as in female, except terminal seta and subterminal spine of leg 5 (Fig. 16) subequal. Lengths of inner spine, middle and outer setae of leg 6 (Fig. 16) 17, 5 and 24 μ m respectively; outer seta reaching past posterior margin of succeeding somite.

Etymology. – From the Latin for 'small', since this is one of the smallest known species of the genus.

Remarks. – Because of the shared characters of a straight, unornamented connecting plate of leg 4 basipod and an antennule of 17 articles, Thermocyclops parvus keys to T. dalmaticus Petkovski (1956) in the key of Herbst (1986). However, T. parvus differs from T. dalmaticus in having a relatively stouter caudal ramus, with thick outermost terminal seta; also, the genital segment of the female of T. parvus is relatively more slender and the forms of the seminal receptacles differ, that of T. parvus being slightly emarginate anteriorly while that of T. dalmaticus is convex. The longest caudal setae of T. parvus are curved anteriorly at the tips, while those of T. dalmaticus are straight. T. parvus differs from most congeners

in lacking a spine on the inner distal margin of the basipod of leg 1, as far as this character has been described.

The specimens of *T. parvus* were obtained in plankton samples from a freshwater slough in the Florida Everglades (Fig. 17). Water depths were 14-23 cm at Site 06 and 14-29 cm at Site 23 (R. Conrow, in litt.). In Everglades sloughs, conductance, dissolved oxygen, turbidity and other physical and chemical parameters are highly variable, both diurnally and seasonally; pH remains moderately basic at 7.0-8.5 (Loftus & Kushlan, 1987).

Distribution records

The following section includes distribution records for the planktonic species of *Thermo-cyclops* reported from the western hemisphere. Records listed as 'confirmed and probable' include those verified personally by the author, or else those for which some taxonomic information was given or the taxonomist named. Records classified as 'possible', which are in most cases older, in general are discussed following the listing. If a species was listed under an older classification (i.e. the genera *Cyclops* or *Mesocyclops*), that listing is given. Information regarding type of water body and ambient conditions, where available, has been included in summary form.

Thermocyclops crassus

The only confirmed record of this species in the western hemisphere is that of Collado, Defaye *et al.* (1984) from three small ponds in San José Province, Costa Rica (Fig. 17). B. H. Dussart, C. H. Fernando (in litt.) and co-workers (Collado, Fernando & Sephton, 1984) agree that most published records of *T. crassus* in South and Central America and the Caribbean region refer to *T. decipiens* (discussed below).

Thermocyclops tenuis

Confirmed and probable records:

Argentina:

 Ringuelet (1958a): Chaco, unnamed charcas in Makallé (27°13' S, 59°17' W); Santa Fé,

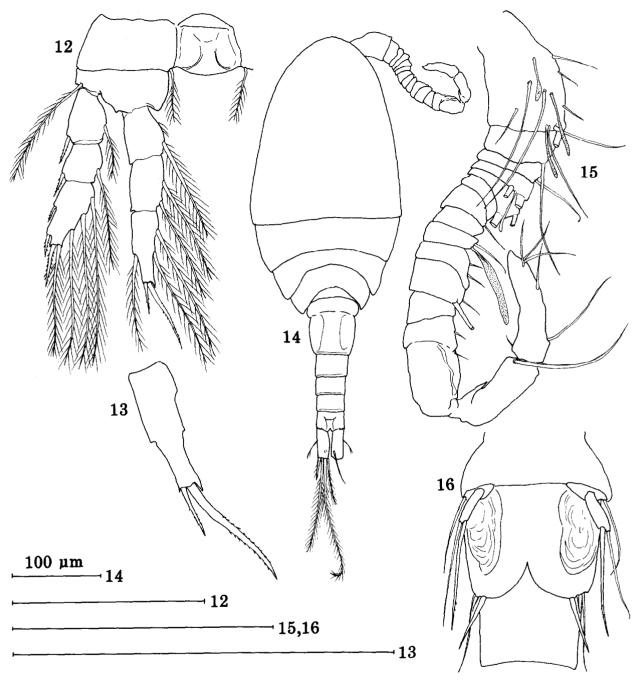


Fig. 12, 13. Thermocyclops parvus, new species, female: 12, leg 4; 13, leg 4, endopod 3. Figs. 14-16. T. parvus, male: 14, habitus; 15, antennule; 16, anterior urosomites, ventral.

charcas in Firmat (33° 27' S, 61° 29' W), San Justo (34° 40' S, 58° 33' W), Crespo (32° 02' S, 60° 19' W) and Calchaquí (29° 54' S, 60° 18' W). Brazil:

- Kiefer (1936b), Schubart (1938): several unspecified locations, State of Pernambuco.
- Reid (unpublished): cowpond 17 km east of

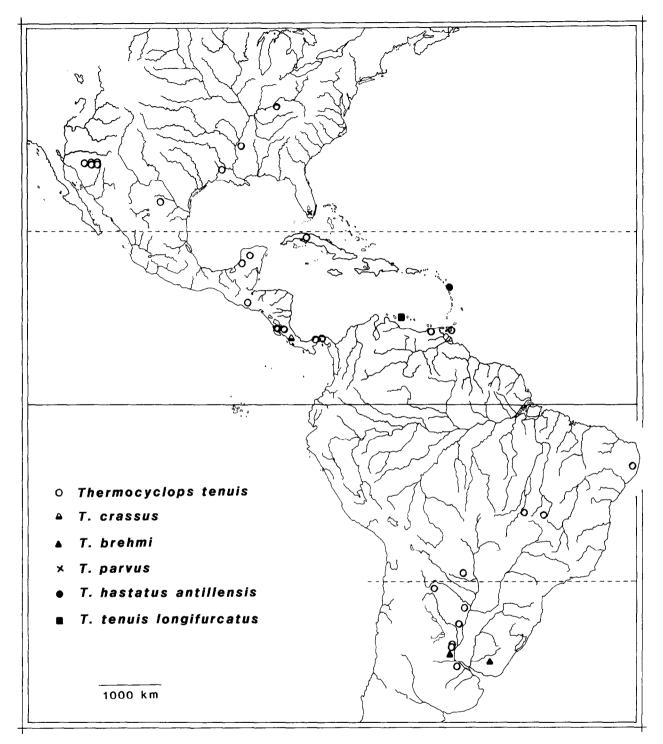


Fig. 17. Locations in the western hemisphere of confirmed and probable records of Thermocyclops tenuis, T. tenuis longifurcatus, T. crassus, T. brehmi, T. hastatus antillensis and T. parvus.

city of Goiás Velho, State of Goiás, Amazon drainage basin, approximately 16°00" S, 50°02 "W, 13 Jan 1980.

 Reid (unpublished): temporary puddle by Rio Cana Brava, State of Goiás, Amazon drainage basin, approximately 15° 00′ S, 47° 04′ W, 1 Dec 1983; depth 0-20 cm, temp. 29.8 °C, cond. 90 μS cm⁻¹.

Costa Rica:

- Collado, Defaye *et al.* (1984): small artificial pond at Residential los Arcos, Alejuela Province (10° 30' N, 84° 30' W); Nuñez *Tilapia* ponds, Guanacaste Province (10° 30' N, 85° 15' W).
- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.

Cuba:

- Smith & Fernando (1978, 1980): Habana Province, a lagoon near Havana.
- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.

Mexico:

- Rioja (1942): Laguna de San Felipe, Xochiltepec.
- Cole (1966): cenotes, Yucatán; as Mesocyclops tenuis.
- H. C. Yeatman (unpublished, in litt.): Cenote Bocchen, Campeche, 30 Oct 1974. Coll. J. Reddell.
- Reid (unpublished): ephemeral pond, Municipio de Villa Aldama, Nuevo León, 2 Aug 1987. Coll. J. A. Zamudio V.

Paraguay:

- Lowndes (1934): ponds and rain pools in Makthlawaiya and Nanahua; as *M. tenuis*.

Trinidad:

- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.

United States:

- Marsh (1910), original description, unspecified ponds in 'Calabresas' (possibly Calabasas 31° 29' N, 110° 58' W), southern Arizona; as Cyclops tenuis.
- Reed & McQuaid (1966): shallow pond in stream bed 16 km east of Leesville, Louisiana

 $(31^{\circ} 10' \text{ N}, 93^{\circ} 19' \text{ W})$; also a sinkhole pond near Louisville, Kentucky (H. C. Yeatman in litt. to Reed & McQuaid); as *M. tenuis*.

- Harris (1978): 'taken once... during late summer... in a large oxbow lake near the Mississippi River in northwestern Mississippi'; as *M. tenuis*.
- L. H. Carpelan & G. A. Cole (unpublished, in litt.): two 'tanks' (cowponds) near Portal, southeastern Arizona, and a tank and a roadside ditch near Animas, southwestern New Mexico; all in July and August 1969. (Copepods identified by G. Cole).

Possible records:

Argentina:

Wierzejski (1892): Jujuy Province ('about under 24° S lat.'); as Cyclops oithonoides.

El Salvador:

 Marsh (1931): Lake Ahuachapan (shallow) and Lakes Chalchuapa, Coatepeque and Guija (deep); as C. tenuis.

Mexico:

- Wilson (1936) and Pearse (1938): Yucatán cenotes; as *M. tenuis*.

Panama:

- Marsh (1913): Miraflores, pond by dump; Bolino Pond; savannas near Panama; Gatun Lake; Rio Trinidad; Agua Clara, Calabraras, Nindi, Camacho, Cocoli, Cambali and Gorgona Reservoirs (detailed records from Marsh's unpublished records in the Marsh Collection, Division of Crustacea, National Museum of Natural History); as C. tenuis.
- Dodds (1926): Gatun and Miraflores Lakes, also four reservoirs and 36 ponds in the Canal Zone; as *C. tenuis*.

Puerto Rico:

- Candelas & Candelas (1966): unspecified lakes; as *M. tenuis*.

Venezuela:

- Margalef (1961): rarely in ephemeral ponds in northeastern Venezuela; as *T. brehmi*.

Some of the records of Marsh from El Salvador (1931) and Panama (1913), and of Dodds (1926)

from Panama must be considered dubious (Reed & McOuaid, 1966); Kiefer (1931) thought that Marsh was probably dealing with several species, and Coker (1943) found T. inversus, but not tenuis, among some of Marsh's material. As Yeatman (1977) observed, Wilson's identification of Pearse's material from cenotes of Yucatán might refer either to T. tenuis or to T. inversus. The determinations of Candelas & Candelas (1966) of M. tenuis from Puerto Rico were likewise made before the presence in this area of other species of Thermocyclops was known. Margalef (1961) identified specimens from Venezuela as T. brehmi, but the species which he illustrated is most probably T. tenuis; E. Zoppi de Roa (in litt.) has never recorded T. brehmi in the Venezuelan fauna.

Ringuelet (1958b, 1959, 1968) considered all three species of *Thermocyclops* (*T. tenuis*, *T. brehmi* and *T. minutus*) then known to occur in Argentina to be subtropical; all were found only in the northern provinces. J. C. Paggi (in litt.) agrees that this genus is not abundantly represented in the Argentine fauna (see record under *T. decipiens*). As regards the northern boundary of its distribution, *T. tenuis* seems to occur sporadically in the southern and central United States, but has been collected more regularly in Central and tropical South America east of the Andes, and in the Antilles (Fig. 17).

T. tenuis is exclusively an American species. The report of *Mesocyclops tenuis* in Pakistan by Mahoon & Zia (1985) is obviously an error, underscoring once more the dangers of relying on identification keys which were developed for another part of the world.

Thermocyclops brehmi

Confirmed records:

Argentina:

- Ringuelet (1958a): charca in Santa Fé de la Esquina.

Uruguay:

- Kiefer (1927): original description, locality unspecified.

Ringuelet (1958b, 1959, 1968) considered T. brehmi a 'heliobiont', subtropical species, typical of microlimnotopes. Its distribution is the most restricted of the limnetic species (Fig. 17).

Thermocyclops decipiens

Confirmed records:

Argentina:

- Menu Marque (1982): Río Hondo reservoir, Santiago del Estero Province; pH 7.0, Secchi depth 0.33-0.37 m, conductivity 2.9X $10^2 \,\mu$ S cm⁻¹.
- J. C. Paggi (in litt.): unnamed ox-bow (madrejón) lake near Madrejón Don Felipe, in floodplain of Río Paraná near city of Santa Fé; March, 1970.

Aruba:

 Pesce (1985): shallow well in limestone, Pos Chiquito near San Nicholas (12° 27′ 56″ N 69° 57′ 24″ W), chlorinity 2772 mg l⁻¹, May 1980. (Pesce gives very complete hydrological data, which I have abstracted.)

Bonaire:

- Kiefer (1933a): Tanki Onima, oligohaline reservoir; as *M.* (*T.*) *decipiens*.
- Pesce (1985): shallow wells on Estate Washikemba (12° 10′ 24″ N 68° 13′ 08″ W), June 1976, and Pos di Salina Chikita, near Estate Pourier (12° 14′ 50″ N 68° 21′ 35″ W), chlorinity 632 mg 1⁻¹, 28 May 1980.

Brazil:

- Arcifa (1984): Americana, Atibainha, Cabucu, Cachoeira, Félix Guisard, Jaguarí, Paraibuna, Paraitinga, Santa Branca and Taiaçupeba Reservoirs, State of São Paulo; as *T. crassus*.
- M. A. J. Carvalho (1975): Represa Americana, large mesotrophic reservoir, State of São Paulo; as *T. crassus*.
- Matsumura-Tundisi *et al.* (1981): unspecified reservoirs, State of São Paulo; as *T. crassus*.
- Sendacz & Kubo (1982) and Sendacz et al. (1985): Águas Claras, Guarapiranga, Itapeva, Itupararanga, Juqueri, Pedreira, Riacho Grande, Rio das Pedras and Serraria Reservoirs, State of São Paulo; as T. crassus.
- Sendacz (1984) and Sendacz *et al.* (1984): Billings Complex, large mesotrophic to eutrophic reservoir, State of São Paulo; as *T. crassus.*

Freitas (1983), Giani (1984), Pinto-Coelho (1983, 1987) and Reid (unpublished): Lago Paranoá, large eutrophic reservoir in Distrito Federal (basin of Paraná River); 15°45' S, 47°50' W.

Reid (unpublished): Lagoa da Península Norte, mesotrophic pond connected to Lago Paranoá, Distrito Federal; 1979–1982.

Reid (unpublished): cattle ponds 1 and 2, Fazenda Taquarí, Distrito Federal (basin of Amazon River), about 15°31' S 47°44' W; 6 Nov 1979, 4 Jul 1982.

Reid *et al.* (in press): Pampulha $(19^{\circ}53'S 43^{\circ}59'W)$ and Vargem das Flores $(19^{\circ}55'S 44^{\circ}02'W)$ Reservoirs, large mesotrophic to eutrophic reservoirs in Belo Horizonte, State of Minas Gerais, 1984–1985; and Lagoa Santa $(19^{\circ}38'S 43^{\circ}53'W)$, small mesotrophic doline lake in Minas Gerais, 1 Sep 1985.

Freire & Pinto-Coelho (1986): Vargem das Flores Reservoir, Minas Gerais.

Neumann-Leitão & Nogueira (1987) and Nogueira (1987): shrimp culture ponds at Nova Cruz (Igarassu, $7^{\circ} 51' 57'' S$ $35^{\circ} 01' 20'' W$) and at Cabo, State of Pernambuco; as *T. neglectus decipiens*.

Reid (unpublished): Açude de Apipucos and Tanque de Casa Forte, small reservoirs in Recife, State of Pernambuco, about 8° S 35° W; 4 Mar 1981. Coll. L. Elmoor-Loureiro. Reid (unpublished): Lago 2, seasonally flooded lake on Ilha de Marchantaria, Rio Solimões near Manaus, State of Amazonas, about $60^{\circ} 2'$ W $3^{\circ} 35'$ S, 2 May 1984. Coll. B. Robertson.

Reid (unpublished): Inlet ('Bay') of Rio Paraguai near Corumbá, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, 1986. Coll. I. H. Moreno.

C. E. F. Rocha (pers. commun.): Dique (dike) Tororó, Salvador, State of Bahia, about $13^{\circ}00'$ S $38^{\circ}27'$ W, 26 Oct 1983. Coll. J. J. Santos. Açude (reservoir) de Itabaiana, city of Itabaiana, about $10^{\circ}43'$ S $37^{\circ}27'$ W; and lake in floodplain of Rio São Francisco, city of Neópolis, about $10^{\circ}19'$ S $36^{\circ}35'$ W, State of Sergipe. Colombia:

- Kiefer (1956): Barranquilla; as T. neglectus decipiens.
- Reid (1988): permanent rain-fed breeding site of anopheline mosquitoes, Localidad Bucheli, Municipio Tumaco, about 1°49' N 78°45' W, 1986. Coll. M. F. Suarez.

Costa Rica:

- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.

Cuba:

- Smith & Fernando (1978, 1980): Cuban lakes in Habana, Las Villas, Oriente and Pinar del Río Provinces; as *T. crassus*.
- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified: as T. crassus.

Curaçao:

 Pesce (1985): shallow well on Estate Leliënberg (12° 17' 55" N 69° 05' 43" W), chlorinity 155 mg l⁻¹, Apr 1974.

El Salvador:

- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified (as *T. crassus*).

French Antilles:

- Dussart (1982): Guadeloupe: Mare Anse Bertrand, Mare Dubisquet (stockpond), Ravine des Coudes (canal), Ravine Cassis, Damencourt Laboratory, three unnamed ponds and a small pool; Martinique: 'Station 2'; and Marie-Galante: unnamed pond with Characea at Locomobile.

Haiti:

- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified; as *T. crassus*.
- Pesce 1985: records from 12 wells in Departements de Artibonete, Nord, Ouest, and Sud; chlorinities 17-2330 mg l⁻¹, Oct-Dec 1979.

St. Croix, U. S. Virgin Islands:

 Pesce 1985: large well on Longford Estate (17° 43' 02" N 64° 41' 47" W), Nov 1975.

Trinidad:

- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified; as *T. crassus*. Venezuela:

- Kiefer (1956): Lagunillas, Venezuelan Andes; as T. neglectus decipiens.
- Montiel & Zoppi de Roa (1979): Edo. Apure, temporary ponds; as *T. n. decipiens*.
- E. Zoppi de Roa (in litt.): unspecified localities.
- Epp & Lewis (1980), Infante (1978a,b, 1981), Infante & Riehl (1984) and Infante *et al.* (1979): Lago de Valencia, a large mesotrophic lake; as *M.* (*T.*) *crassus* or *T. hyalinus*.
- Dussart (1984): Lago de Valencia; Zuata Reservoir, near Cagua (Aragua); Guárico Reservoir, near Calabozo (Guárico); Caño Falcón, Río Portuguesa near San Fernando de Apure (Guárico); Río Portuguesa at Camaguán (Guárico); unnamed pool near Camaguán; man-made lake at Camatagua (Aragua); unnamed natural pond near El Sombrero (Guárico), with extensive littoral macrophytes; Río Orinoco at Ciudad Bolivar and at Soledad; two charcas near Río Unare at Clarines.
- Reid (unpublished): Laguna La Orsinera, floodplain lake near Río Orinoco in Bolivar State, 8° 10' N, 63° 34' W, 22 Aug, 19 Sep and 1 Oct 1984. Coll. S. Twombly.

Probable records:

Argentina:

 Bonetto & Martínez de Ferrato (1966) and Martínez de Ferrato (1967): Madrejón Don Felipe and other ponds in island area of middle Río Paraná; as T. hyalinus.

Cuba:

 Straškraba et al. (1969): Lagunas de Alcatraz Chico, Santa Bárbara, La Luisa, Eduardo, del Tesoro; Presas Río Mosquito, Hanabanilla, Charco Mono; Acueducto de Holguín; as T. cf. oithonoides.

Guatemala:

- Deevey et al. (1980): Lake Quexil, Petén Lake District; as *M. hyalinus*.

Haiti:

- Richard (1895): Lake Florian near Port-au-Prince; as C. oithonoides var. hyalina. Venezuela:

- Margalef (1961): ephemeral ponds on Margarita and Cubagua Islands; as *T. hyalinus*.
- Zoppi de Roa (1972): Laguna de Campoma, large littoral freshwater lagoon in Edo. Sucre; as *T. crassus*.

Broadly distributed in Africa south of the Sahara as well as Egypt, T. decipiens is also common in tropical and subtropical Asia (Kiefer, 1978) and has been recorded as well from Australia (Tait et al., 1984). For 45 years after the first registry in the neotropics by Kiefer (1933a), from Bonaire, it was recorded only once, from Venezuela and Colombia (Kiefer, 1956), though the earlier record was listed by Lindberg (1954) and Kiefer himself (1938b, 1952) called attention to its occurrence in this region. Montiel and Zoppi de Roa (1979) discussed its ecology in temporary waters in Venezuela. More recently, Dussart (1982, 1984) has published numerous records from the French Antilles and Venezuela, and Pesce (1985) reported numerous records from groundwater habitats in the Antilles.

In reality, *T. decipiens* is one of the most commonly encountered species of the genus in broad areas of the neotropics. The absence of this species from many commonly available keys to European and North American Cyclopoida has led, apparently, to numerous misidentifications as the closely related species *T.* (or *M.*) crassus (syn. *T. hyalinus*). Reid (in press) has reviewed these records as well as morphological similarities among *T. decipiens* and several other species. In addition, some nomenclatural confusion has been caused by the fact that Kiefer (1952) for a time considered *T. decipiens* to be a subspecies of *T. neglectus*; but he later (Kiefer, 1978) restored the taxon to species status.

The southernmost records of *T. decipiens* are the probable finds of Bonetto & Martínez de Ferrato (1966) and of Martínez de Ferrato (1967) from the island region of the middle Paraná River. J. C. Paggi (in litt.) was not able to find the sample used by Martínez de Ferrato, but Paggi's own records (see above) and that of Menu Marque (1982) from northern Argentina comprise convincing evidence that Martínez de Ferrato's specimens were *T. decipiens*. This species apparently does not occur in more southern parts of Argentina and was omitted from Ringuelet's (1958a) taxonomic synopsis of Argentine Crustacea. Ringuelet (1972:64) noted that several species collected by Martínez de Ferrato do not occur farther south in the valley of the Plate River, and characterized them as subtropical. Indeed, *T. decipiens*, like its congeners, is restricted to the warm lowlands of eastern South America, Central America and the Caribbean (Fig. 18). It is the only species of the genus recorded west of the Andes (Tumaco, Colombia).

Thermocyclops minutus

Confirmed records:

Argentina

- Ringuelet (1958a): Chaco, charca in Makallé.

Brazil

- Herbst (1967): Lago Joanicu, State of Amazonas.
- Hardy (1978, 1980): Lagos Castanho and Jacaretinga, várzea lakes near Manaus; and Tarumã-Mirim, a blackwater tributary of the Rio Negro; State of Amazonas.
- Brandorff (1977, 1978): Lago Castanho.
- Brandorff (1978): Tarumã-Mirim.
- Brandorff & Andrade (1978): Lago Jacaretinga.
- Brandorff et al. (1982): several localities on the lower Rio Nhamundá including Lago da Terra Santa and Rio Maracaná, the mouth of the Rio Xingú, and lakes near Maracaná and Nhamundá villages; States of Amazonas and Pará.
- M. L. Carvalho (1983): Lago Grande, Amazonas.
- Reid (unpublished): Lago 2, Ilha de Marchantaria, Rio Solimões near Manaus, about 3° 35' S 60° 2' W, 2 May 1984, State of Amazonas; and Represa Curuá-Una, 25 Mar and 25 Apr 1978, State of Pará. Coll. B. Robertson.
- Barbosa & Matsumura-Tundisi (1984), Matsumura-Tundisi & Rocha (1983), Matsumura-

Tundisi & Tundisi (1976), Rocha & Matsumura-Tundisi (1976): Represa da Broa (Lobo), a large oligotrophic to mesotrophic reservoir; State of São Paulo.

- Matsumura-Tundisi *et al.* (1981): unspecified reservoirs; State of São Paulo.
- Sendacz & Kubo (1982) and Sendacz et al. (1985): Águas Claras, Alecrim, França, Fumaça, Funil, Itupararanga and Serraria Reservoirs; State of São Paulo.
- Reid (unpublished): Lagoa Feia, a small mesotrophic lake, State of Goiás (Amazon drainage basin), 15° 34′ 20″ S, 46° 18′ 30″ W; 16 Jan 1980, coll. L. Elmoor-Loureiro; 23 Apr 1982, coll. J. W. Reid.
- Reid (unpublished): inlet ('bay') of Rio Paraguai near Corumbá, State of Mato Grosso do Sul, 1986. Coll. I. H. Moreno.
- Gouvêa (1978): Lagoa do Abaeté, a small mesotrophic coastal lake near Salvador, State of Bahia.
- Matsumura-Tundisi & Okano (1983) and Okano (1980): Lago Dom Helvécio, a large oligotrophic lake, 19° 10' S 42° 1' W; State of Minas Gerais.
- Reid et al. (in press): Vargem das Flores Reservoir, Belo Horizonte, State of Minas Gerais, 1984-85; Lagoa Santa and Lagoinha, natural doline lakes in the Municipality of Lagoa Santa near Belo Horizonte, both about 19°38' S 43°53' W, 1 Sep 1985; and Lago Sumidouro, a doline lake near Belo Horizonte, 1 Sep 1985; State of Minas Gerais.
- Freire & Pinto-Coelho (1986): Vargem das Flores Reservoir, Minas Gerais.
- Reid & Turner (in press): canal from Lago Viana to Rio Pindaré, State of Maranhão, about 3° 30' S 45° 19' W; 2 Oct 1985.
- Reid & Esteves (1984): Lagoas Cima (21°45′S 41°30′W), Feia (21°58′S 41°21′W) and Saudade (21°42′S 41°20′W), large freshwater coastal lakes; State of Rio de Janeiro.
- Kiefer (1936b) and Schubart (1938): pool in dried streambed of Riacho Doce, Município Caruarú; and unspecified water body in Carrapatos; State of Pernambuco.

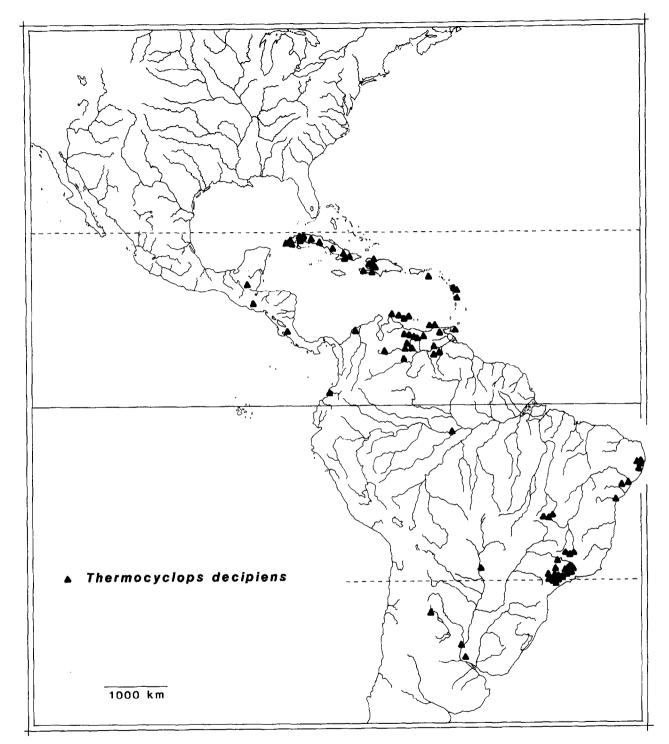


Fig. 18. Locations in the western hemisphere of confirmed and probable records of Thermocyclops decipiens.

Paraguay:

- Lowndes 1934: original description, from swamp 32 km west of Makthlawaiya; as *Meso*cyclops minutus.

Venezuela:

- Dussart (1984): estero (backwater of river) at Camaguán (Guárico); unnamed pool near Camaguán; unnamed natural pond with extensive littoral macrophytes, near El Sombrero (Guárico); unnamed pond near Río Orinoco at Barrancas; Guri Lake, a man-made lake near Río Caroní.
- E. Zoppi de Roa (in litt.): unspecified localities.

Figure 19 shows the known distribution of *T. minutus*, which appears to be confined to tropical and subtropical lowlands of continental South America east of the Andes; most records are from Brazil. Ringuelet (1958a, 1959, 1968) considered *T. minutus*, like *T. brehmi* and *T. tenuis*, a subtropical species in Argentina. In central Amazonian lakes influenced by 'white water', i.e. relatively high in nutrients, this species is often numerically important (Brandorff *et al.*, 1982).

Thermocyclops inversus

Confirmed and probable records:

Brazil:

- Kiefer (1936a) and Schubart (1938): original description; Rio Branco, a recently constructed reservoir near Campo da Criação; and Brejo (marsh) de São José (Município Buique); State of Pernambuco.
- Reid (unpublished): well at Forte Pau Amarelo, near Olinda, about 8°0' S, 34°50', 9 April 1981; State of Pernambuco.
- Reid et al. (in press): pool in Brejo do Hipódromo 'Serra Verde', Belo Horizonte, 1 Sep 1985; State of Minas Gerais.

Costa Rica:

- ~ Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.
- Collado, Defaye et al. (1984): Cachi Reservoir and Dona Ana Pond, a small natural reservoir (Cartago Province); Arenal Reservoir (Guanacaste Province); Aguilar Pond, a small natural pond (province unspecified).

Cuba:

- Straškraba *et al.* (1969): Laguna del Valle de San Juan (pH = 7.0); and Laguna de Alcatraz Grande (pH = 8.4).
- Smith & Fernando (1978, 1980): 3 unspecified lakes in Habana and Las Villas Provinces.
- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.

El Salvador:

- Coker (1943): San Salvador, localities unspecified; as *M. inversus*.
- Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984): localities unspecified.

Guatemala:

- Peckham & Dineen (1953): Lake Amatitlan, 14° 25' N 90° 30' W, altitude 1175 m; as *M. inversus*.
- Brinson & Nordlie (1975) and H. C. Yeatman (in litt.): Lake Izabal, a large, low-altitude, hard-water, mesotrophic lake; as *M*. (*T*.) *inversus*.
- Deevey et al. (1980): Lakes Petén Itza, Yaxha, Sacnob, Quexil, Macanche, Monifata I, Oquevix, and Petenxil in Petén Lake District; as *M. inversus*.

Mexico:

- Coker (1943), Kiefer (1938a), Osorio Tafall (1941, 1944), Rioja (1940a,b), Uéno (1939): Lake Pátzcuaro, Michoacán Province; as *M. inversus* or *T. inversus*.
- Osorio Tafall (1943): 2 caves in Valles, San Luis Potosí; mildly carbonate waters, pH = 8.
 Osorio Tafall commented that these copepods were transported into the caves in stream water.

Nicaragua:

- Cole (1976, in litt.): Lake Nicaragua, a shallow, turbid, well-oxygenated, somewhat saline, highly productive lake; copepods identified by H. C. Yeatman.
- H. C. Yeatman (in litt.): Rio Grande at Capalar, 23 May 1977.

Possible record:

Panama:

- Marsh (1913): see comments under T. tenuis.

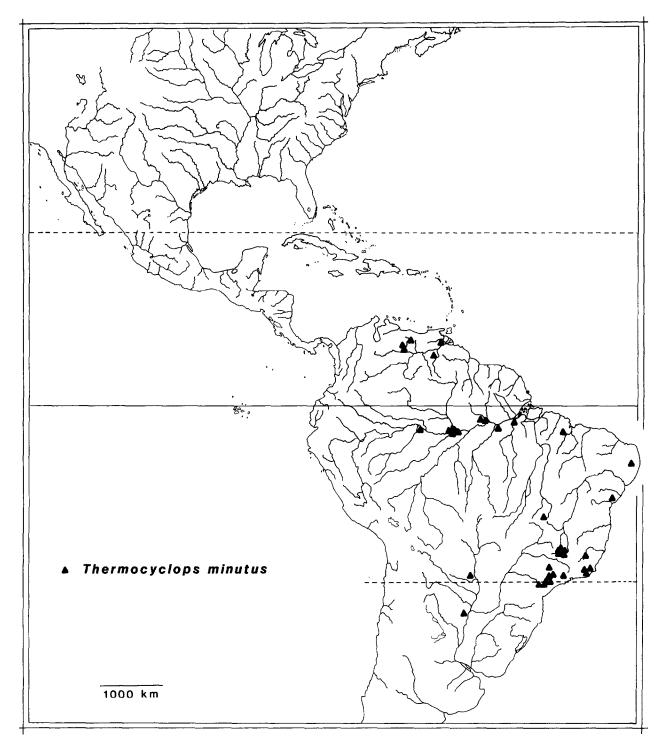


Fig. 19. Locations in the western hemisphere of confirmed and probable records of Thermocyclops minutus.

Although Yeatman (1959) included T. inversus in his key to North American Cyclopoida, based on records in Mexico, no recent find of this species in North America seems to have been made. In the opinion of Yeatman (1977), C. B. Wilson's report of T. tenuis from cenotes in Yucatán may refer to that species or to T. inversus. T. inversus probably occurs sporadically in Mexico as well as in Cuba. The four records from Brazil represent the only continental South American finds (Fig. 20).

Some questionable records

Thermocyclops dybowskii (Landé, 1890)

Yeatman (1959) and Pennak (1953, 1978) included T. dybowskii in their keys to North American Mesocyclops s. 1. on the basis of E. B. Forbes' records from Wyoming and Illinois (Forbes, 1897). These records are unaccompanied by figures, and Coker (1943) considered them doubtful. Since in spite of its presence in these widely used keys, no further record of a species of Thermocyclops has been published from the North American Midwest, I concur with Coker's opinion. The record of T. dvbowskii from Louisiana (southern United States) by Nasci et al. (1987) refers in actuality to Diacyclops navus (Herrick). Daday's record of C. dybowskii from Paraguay was judged by Lindberg (1954) to refer to M. longisetus. Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984) recorded 'M. dybowski' from Trinidad; since these authors did distinguish the genera Thermocyclops and Mesocyclops, it is possible that this record also refers to a species of Mesocyclops s. str.

Thermocyclops oithonoides (Sars, 1863)

This species has several times been recorded from the western hemisphere; unfortunately no record has been accompanied by good figures. Probably for this reason, Lindberg (1954) listed the record of Daday (1905) from Paraguay as species incerta sedis, and considered that the record of Wierjezski (1892) from Argentina probably referred to *T. tenuis*. Meek (1901) reported T. oithonoides from Lake Atitlán, Mexico; the copepods were identified in this case by C. Juday. Coker (1943) considered all records from North America dubious. Yeatman (1959) included M. oithonoides in his key, based on Herrick's record from Minnesota (1884, repeated 1895). Herrick's figures from the 1884 report clearly show a species of Mesocyclops, most likely the common M. edax; this was also the opinion of Kiefer (1931). The identification by Straškraba et al. (1969) from Cuba very likely refers to T. decipiens, which is the common planktonic species there (Smith & Fernando, 1978, 1980). Collado, Fernando & Sephton (1984) mentioned a record by 'others' of T. oithonoides from Haiti, but gave no attribution. Therefore T. oithonoides as well as T. dybowskii are probably not present in the western hemisphere.

Discussion

Ranges and biogeographical considerations

In the western hemisphere, members of the genus Thermocyclops inhabit warm lowland regions in continental South America east of the Andes Mountains (except for the single record of T. decipiens from western Colombia) and southwards to northern Argentina, where occurrence is sporadic. Northwards they extend into several islands of the Antilles and through Central America, Mexico and the southern United States. Aside from T. tenuis longifurcatus, T. hastatus antillensis and T. parvus, the species with the most restricted range is T. brehmi, from northern Argentina and Uruguay. While T. crassus has been reliably recorded only from ponds in Costa Rica, in Africa and southern Europe it is quite common and should be looked for in future Central American and Antillean collections. T. minutus is restricted to eastern continental South America, from northern Argentina to Venezuela. The ranges of the remaining three species extend throughout the neotropics. Reliable records of T. decipiens extend from Argentina northwards only to Costa Rica, Guatemala and the Antilles, though the species is probably present in Mexico

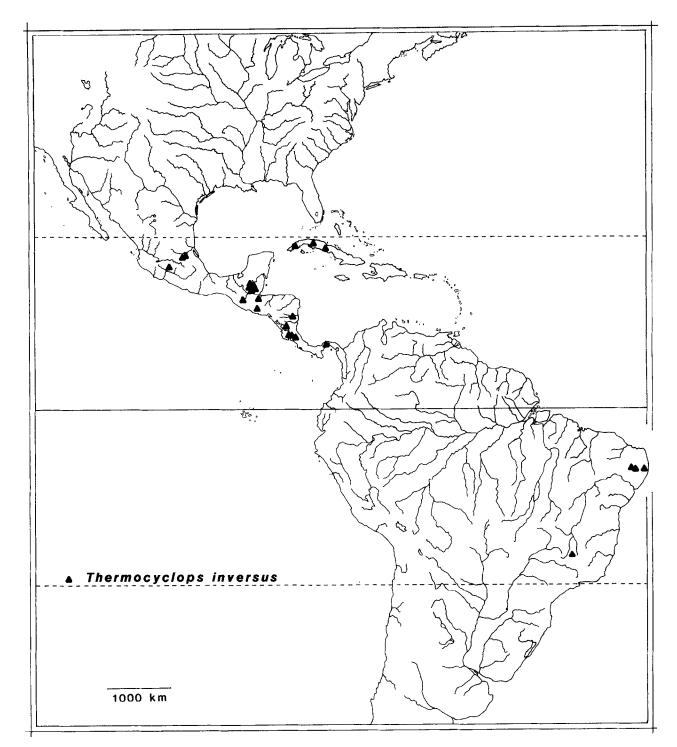


Fig. 20. Locations in the western hemisphere of confirmed and probable records of Thermocyclops inversus.

also. T. inversus occurs from northeastern Brazil to Mexico and the Antilles. T. tenuis ranges from northern Argentina to the Antilles and the southern United States.

To both north and south, then, T. tenuis and T. brehmi are the only species which seem to occur consistently outside the tropics. Surprisingly, T. parvus seems to be the only member of the genus to inhabit the peninsula of Florida. No congener has yet been recorded from lakes in the middle and upper peninsula, where numerous lakes and other aquatic habitats have been investigated. In most Florida lakes, even in highly productive phosphate pit lakes, Mesocyclops edax is the common planktonic cyclopoid species (Blancher, 1984; Dickinson, 1949; Elmore et al., 1984; G. K. Reid & Blake, 1969; J. Elmore and G. Wyngaard, pers. commun.). In waters of the central and southwestern United States, T. tenuis occurs extremely rarely, and then only in summer (Cole, 1966; L. H. Carpelan, in litt.). Similarly, the apparent absence of the genus from coastal states of Brazil south of São Paulo, where T. decipiens and T. minutus are common, does not result from lack of collecting effort, since collections in that area from the time of Richard (1897) down to a recent, thorough study of the Lagoa Negra in the State of Rio Grande do Sul by Fallavena (1985) have failed to record these species. Species of Thermocyclops were also absent from an extensive series of samples from ponds and reservoirs in the region of Porto Alegre, made by Kleerekoper in 1941 (Reid, unpublished).

The known ranges of most western hemisphere species of *Thermocyclops* except for *tenuis*, therefore, coincide strikingly with the 'South American-Caribbean track' for faunal distribution described by Rosen (1975), which includes South America, the Antilles, Bahamas, Central America and the Mexican lowlands. If one accepts Rosen's argument that the sequence of vicariant events dividing populations and thus permitting speciation can be reconstructed from the present distribution of species, species of greater age would be the most broadly distributed (*T. decipiens* in this case), with the most recently evolved species having the most restricted distribution (T. brehmi, T. hastatus antillensis and T. parvus). T. crassus may have existed longer than T. decipiens in other parts of the tropics, but have recently arrived in the western hemisphere. A debatable assumption in Rosen's theory as applied to these copepods is that their vagility is not so great as to permit them to reach all possible habitats within relatively short periods after speciation occurs. However, a high degree of vagility is inferable from the spatial distribution of T. tenuis, which in the New World is actually greater than that of T. decipiens. Small aquatic crustaceans are well suited to passive dispersal by birds and semiaquatic mammals (Maguire, 1971). Such great vagility would imply that the speciation events of T. brehmi, T. hastatus antillensis and T. parvus are recent indeed.

The other striking aspect of the recorded distributions of T. decipiens, T. tenuis and T. inversus is their apparent rarity or complete absence from the central Amazon basin, where T. minutus is common in lakes and rivers. Copepods from many kinds of Amazonian habitats including rivers, side channels, floodplain (várzea) lakes, ponds and puddles have been examined by Cipólli & Carvalho (1973), Herbst (1962, 1967), Brandorff (1978), Brandorff et al. (1982), Reid (unpublished) and others. The only records within the greater basin are those of the author for T. decipiens and T. tenuis in some puddles and cattle ponds in the north of the Federal District, and the single record of T. decipiens from a lake on Marchantaria Island near Manaus (see above). On the other hand, T. decipiens is common in the basin of the Orinoco River, which has now and has historically had numerous connections to the Amazon. It is probable that the apparent absence of some species from the Amazon lowlands is due to biological and ecological rather than geographical causes; as pointed out by Dumont (1980), passive dispersal is successful only if suitable niches are encountered. Besch (1969) explained a similar disjunction in the distribution of the cold-stenothermal rheophilic Hydrachnellae (Arachnida) by postulating a lack of suitable environmental conditions in the warm lowlands. Since no environmental factors in the Amazon basin suggest themselves as similarly likely to inhibit species of *Thermocyclops*, an explanation for their apparent absence might be sought in their biology, competition from non-congeneric cyclopoids, or predation factors.

Biological and ecological considerations

Most records of these species are accompanied by fragmentary or no description of the habitat, but most species, like their congeners in other parts of the world, appear facultatively eurytopic. The least known species is T. brehmi, which Ringuelet characterized as an inhabitant of 'microlimnotopes'. T. crassus, known in the western hemisphere only from a few ponds in Costa Rica, is otherwise present throughout the Palearctic, Australia, South and Southeast Asia, occurring most commonly in tropical Africa. It typically inhabits large natural and artificial lakes, but also occurs occasionally in more restricted habitats such as pools and ditches (Dussart, 1969; Kiefer, 1978). T. minutus has been recorded most often in larger oligotrophic to mesotrophic lakes, as well as some Amazonian rivers. T. decipiens is commonly found in and frequently numerous in large and small mesotrophic and eutrophic lakes and reservoirs, as well as in open shallow wells. T. tenuis, also extremely eurytopic, inhabits large and small lakes, reservoirs, ponds, roadside ditches and puddles. In Arizona and New Mexico, this species was collected by L. H. Carpelan (pers. commun.) in cowponds and a roadside ditch shortly after the first filling by seasonal rains in July, and did not appear in collections made 3-4 months later. Similarly, in the arid central Brazilian highlands T. tenuis was found only in a temporary puddle and an ephemeral cowpond, though in extremely high numbers. Many other records of T. tenuis seem to be from ephemeral waters, though some are from large lakes. T. inversus may prefer mildly carbonate waters and its records include large and small reservoirs, natural lakes, ponds, wells and caves. In lakes it is often abundant (Deevey et al., 1980; Peckham & Dineen, 1953).

Where two or more of these species have been

recorded in the same lake or reservoir district, there is some evidence of separation according to environmental conditions. In the Guatemalan lake system examined by Deevey et al. (1980), T. decipiens occurred only in Lake Quexil, one of three lakes undergoing anthropogenic disturbance in modern times. T. inversus inhabited eight of the lakes, co-occurring with T. decipiens only in Lake Quexil. In the Vargem das Flores Reservoir in southeastern Brazil, T. decipiens co-occurred with T. minutus (Freire & Pinto-Coelho, 1986; Reid et al., in press). T. minutus is a common inhabitant of the natural (oligotrophic to mesotrophic) waters of the region, though populations of T. decipiens are high in both Vargem das Flores and Pampulha, the other large reservoir in the city of Belo Horizonte. Both reservoirs have in recent years undergone severe siltation and loading of urban pollutants (Freire & Pinto-Coelho, 1986). Of 17 Cuban lakes investigated by Straškraba et al. (1969), T. inversus occurred in two and T. decipiens (= T. oithonoides) in 11; the two species never occurred together. The two lakes inhabited by T. inversus were a deep lake with calcareous rock basin and a shallow basin on fine siliceous sand; lakes inhabited by T. decipiens included two of the latter type as well as large and small reservoirs, a small lake with vegetation, and a large natural lake. In or near the Federal District in the central Brazilian highlands, three species occurred (see above). T. tenuis was found only in a rain-fed cowpond and a puddle during the rainy season. T. decipiens was the dominant crustacean zooplankter in a large eutrophic reservoir (Lake Paranoá), in a closely associated mesotrophic pond, subject to erosion and flooding from nearby construction (Lagoa da Península Norte); and in two perennial cowponds. T. minutus occurred in small numbers together with calanoids in Lagoa Feia, a natural mesotrophic lake somewhat modified by damming and drainage from a nearby town. T. decipiens and T. minutus co-occurred in an inlet of Rio Paraguai near Corumbá; these inlets are subject to great seasonal alterations in depth, primary productivity and coverage by Eichhornia crassipes and other macrophytes (I. H. Moreno, pers. commun.). Data from several

studies of reservoirs in São Paulo indicate that *T. decipiens* tends to dominate the crustacean zooplankton in mesotrophic to eutrophic reservoirs, while *T. minutus*, though it occurs in large populations in some eutrophic systems, tends to be more numerous in mesotrophic to oligotrophic reservoirs (Arcifa, 1984; Matsumura-Tundisi & Tundisi, 1976; Matsumura-Tundisi *et al.*, 1981; Sendacz & Kubo, 1982; Sendacz *et al.*, 1984, 1985). Co-occurrences of any two species of *Thermocyclops*, therefore, seem to indicate a system in which environmental conditions are changing.

T. minutus, while frequently abundant in waters of low productivity, is successful in more productive waters up to a certain point. In the natural Lake Dom Helvécio as well as Broa (Lobo) Reservoir, population peaks of T. minutus are strongly associated with entry of nutrients into the system through overturn or in the rainy season, with consequent increased phytoplankton production (Matsumura-Tundisi & Tundisi, 1976; Matsumura-Tundisi & Okano, 1983). In Lago Castanho, a white-water Amazonian floodplain (várzea) lake, populations of T. minutus, the dominant crustacean zooplankter, fluctuated by about an order of magnitude, showing no clear relationship to water level in the lake (Brandorff, 1977, 1978b). Since highest egg numbers followed periods of total circulation and consequent increases in (non- blue-green) phytoplankton populations, while egg production decreased during and after blooms of blue-green and filamentous algae and volvocines, Brandorff (1977) attributed these periods of increased egg production to increases in small 'filterable' algae. In the Amazon system, T. minutus seems not to occur in black (humic) waters, but frequently attains high population sizes in whitewater lakes or rivers (Brandorff, 1977; Brandorff et al., 1982). These latter systems have been considered more productive than the nutrient-poor blackwaters, though this opinion is debatable (Brandorff, 1977). In the mesotrophic Lagoa do Abaeté, T. minutus remained abundant year-round (Gouvêa, 1978).

Although cyanophyceans are usually considered unavailable as food for zooplankters (Junk, 1984), much evidence exists that

T. decipiens and some congeners can exploit them. T. decipiens is a dominant or quantitatively important zooplankter in several well-studied eutrophic neotropical lakes and reservoirs in which the phytoplankton tends to be dominated by one of several species of Cyanophyceae. In these systems, populations of T. decipiens tend to remain stable or at least numerous year-round; fluctuations whether positive or negative are usually associated with the rainy season. In the Venezuelan Laguna de Campoma, numbers of most zooplankters including T. decipiens decreased during the rainy season (Zoppi de Roa, 1972); a similar cycle was observed in the Brazilian Lake Paranoá, though T. decipiens populations tended to vary less than other crustacean plankters (Freitas, 1983; Giani, 1984; Pinto-Coelho, 1984, 1987). Populations of T. decipiens remain more or less stable throughout the year in Rio Grande (Billings Complex), an eutrophic reservoir in São Paulo (Sendacz et al., 1984). In Billings Reservoir itself, T. decipiens is dominant in the rainy season but supplanted by Metacyclops mendocinus during the dry season, a period of extreme eutrophication (Sendacz, 1984). In Lake Valencia, high densities of copepods, primarily T. decipiens, corresponded with maxima of Lyngbya limnetica, Oscillatoria limnetica and sometimes Microcystis aeruginosa (Infante & Riehl, 1984). The positive relationship between these copepods and blue-green algae is substantiated by the history of gradual displacement of the calanoid Notodiaptomus venezolanus by T. decipiens the dominant crustacean as zooplankter in Lake Valencia in the 1970's; during this decade cyanophyceans became the predominant phytoplankters as the lake's pollution levels increased (Infante, 1978a). A similar sequence of events has occurred in Paranoá, where an unidentified diaptomid calanoid copepod occurred during the early period of reservoir formation but has been apparently absent in recent years. Experimental reduction of zooplankton numbers in enclosures in Lake Paranoá resulted in virtual elimination of the blue-green Raphidiopsis brooki from the phytoplankton and its substitution by several species of Chlorella, Scenedes-

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mus, Closterium and another species of Raphidiopsis (Pinto-Coelho, 1983). In the Philippine Lake Lanao the production of T. crassus, closely related to T. decipiens, also showed a strong positive statistical relationship to the abundance of bluegreens, as well as to diatoms, and particularly to filamentous or elongate unicellular forms (Lewis, 1979). On the other hand, in the Cuban lakes studied by Straškraba *et al.* (1969), there was no obvious correlation between the presence of T. decipiens and dominance of a particular lake by blue-greens.

Aside from such observations of coincidental occurrence, several studies have shown directly that adults and copepodites, and probably nauplii as well, of some species of Thermocyclops do feed raptorially upon blue-green algae as well as on other phytoplankton groups. Infante (1978b) has shown by examination of stomach contents of some zooplankters in Lake Valencia that T. decipiens ingests but may not efficiently assimilate the colonial M. aeruginosa; while the filamentous L. limnetica is both ingested and 83%assimilated. However, in Lake Valencia bluegreens and Bacillariophyceae dominated the recognizable gut contents during much of the year. cyanophycean species mostly being ingested from September through February when these species were also most abundant in the plankton. A species better adapted to utilize Microcystis may be T. crassus, which in Lake George not only ingested the colonies but broke up cells and efficiently assimilated their carbon; nauplii apparently ingested and assimilated the less numerous single cells (Burgis et al., 1973; Moriarty et al., 1973). Such differences in capability to utilize various species of blue-green algae may account for the virtually complete separation of T. decipiens and T. crassus in plankton records of the Sunda-Expedition (Heberer & Kiefer, 1932; Kiefer, 1933b, 1938b) noted by Hutchinson (1951). Thermocyclops minutus is so much smaller than either T. decipiens or T. crassus that it may be dependent upon, or at least more restricted to relatively palatable green algae and diatoms, proportionately more available in less highly productive waters. Much of the explanation for the comparative success of these species in different water bodies may, therefore, lie in the nature of the available phytoplankton assemblages. Hutchinson's (1951) characterization of T. decipiens as a 'fugitive species', that is a species forever on the move from competition with any other species capable of entering the same niche, is probably incorrect, since the success of T. decipiens seems to depend upon the availability of cyanophycean food, a resource which few other species seem adapted to utilize. Unfortunately, understanding of the biology of most of these interesting cyclopoids, which are frequently quantitatively important in disturbed and eutrophic waters, has advanced little since Hutchinson wrote. Further investigation would yield valuable insights into zooplankton-phytoplankton relationships and population dynamics.

In lacustrine systems the species richness of zooplankters is frequently low when compared to that of the phytoplankton community; Colinvaux & Steinitz (1980) have called this the 'paradox of the zooplankton'. Low species richness is even more striking in tropical lakes (Colinvaux & Steinitz, 1980; Deevey et al., 1980; Lewis, 1979; Ruttner, 1952). In tropical waters, zooplankters generally maintain breeding populations yearround, and these populations must adapt to changes in the availability of food organisms. At least in mesotrophic and eutrophic systems, some species of Thermocyclops may be able to maintain high populations relative to those of other herbivorous copepods by gaining a significant portion of their nutrition from blooms of bluegreen algae which most other cyclopoid as well as calanoid copepods are unable to exploit effectively. Several species of temperate cyclopoids have been shown to take blue-green algae unselectively, even in the presence of supposedly more palatable greens (McNaught et al., 1980); however, blue-greens may not be assimilated efficiently (Schindler, 1971). By maintaining relatively high numbers during periods of blooms of the less palatable algal species, then, these species can, in the aggregate, outcompete calanoids and other herbivorous cyclopoids for more desirable algal species during periods when these algae are

increasing. This hypothesis is advanced as one possible mechanism for the frequently observed decline or disappearance of filter-feeders from many lakes and reservoirs undergoing eutrophication (Infante & Riehl, 1984; Sendacz, 1984; Sendacz *et al.*, 1984). It might also partially account for the low species richness of planktonic copepod communities in tropical lakes, since copepods which are able to survive on less desirable phytoplankters may outcompete more specialized feeders.

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Notes added in proof:

1. The author has recorded *Thermocyclops inversus* in material from several ephemeral ponds and cemetery pits in greater New Orleans, State of Louisiana, U.S.A., collected in spring 1988 by G. Marten.

2. M. A. J. Carvalho has observed adults of *Thermocyclops decipiens* (reported as *T. crassus*) preying upon their own nauplii, cladocerans, and larvae of Chironomidae; she also noted declines of populations of *T. decipiens* during blooms of cyanophycean algae (*Anabaena spiralis* and *Microcystis* sp.) in Americana Reservoir, São Paulo, Brazil.

Reference: Carvalho, M. A. J., 1984. On the feeding behaviour of *Thermocyclops crassus*. Crustaceana, Suppl. 7: 122-125.