

A NEW DISTRIBUTION RECORD FOR *MACROBRACHIUM JELSKII*
(MIERS, 1877) IN ARGENTINA (DECAPODA, PALAEMONIDAE)

BY

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The genus *Macrobrachium* Bate, 1888 has been known from Argentine freshwaters as represented by two species, *M. borellii* Nobili, 1896 and *M. amazonicum* Heller, 1862 (cf. Boschi, 1981; Pettovello, 1996).

Recent collections in northern Argentinean ponds and lagoons have revealed the presence of one additional species, which had not been reported from Argentina before.

This paper documents the occurrence of this species, *M. jelskii*, in South America, and extends its known range considerably southwards.

***Macrobrachium jelskii* (Miers, 1877)**

Type locality. — Saint-Georges, French Guiana.

Material examined. — Twenty-three specimens, 13 males and 10 females; total lengths 29.0 ± 4.60 mm, cephalothorax lengths 12.7 ± 2.39 mm; Laguna Blanca ($25^{\circ} 10' S$ $58^{\circ} 11' W$) Río Pilcomayo National Park, Argentina; 22.iii.1999. The material is deposited in the reference collection of the Invertebrate Department of the "Florentino Ameghino" Natural Museum of Santa Fe city, Argentina, catalogue N^o: MFA-ZI-N^o 367.

Laguna Blanca. — The lake is a fluvial depression. It is located 1400 km from the sea. Some abiotic characteristics at the date of collection were: temperature: 20°C; conductivity: 360 μ Ohm/cm; pH: 7.6; dissolved oxygen: 7.4 mg/l; and Secchi disc reading: 34 cm.

The dominant macrophyte are *Thalia geniculata* Linnaeus, *Canna glauca* Linnaeus, *Cyperus prolixus* Humboldt, Bonpland & Kunth, *Juncus pallidus* Lamarck, *Eichhornia crassipes* Solms-Laubach, *Pontederia cordata* Linnaeus, *Pistia stratiotes* Linnaeus, and *Azolla filiculoides* Lamarck.

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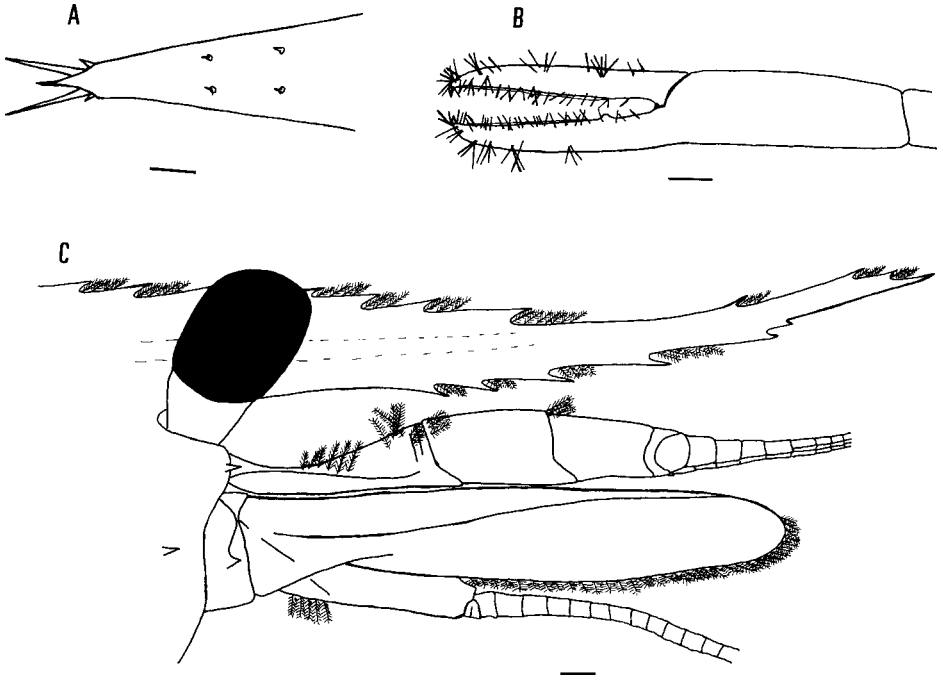


Fig. 1. *Macrobrachium jelskii* (Miers, 1877), adult male from Laguna Blanca, Río Pilcomayo Natural Park Argentina. A, dorsal view of the telson; B, lateral view of the left second chela; C, lateral view of the rostrum. Scale bars represent 0.3 mm.

Previous records. — Venezuela, Trinidad, Costa Rica, Bolivia, the Guianas, Surinam, and Brazil (Parana do Jacaré, Lago Amaña, Rio Cuieiras, Rio Negro, Rio Urubaxi, Rio Preto da Eva, Lago Redondo) (Holthuis, 1966; Rodríguez, 1981; Kensley & Walker, 1982).

Remarks. — In the specimens observed, the telson has a definite posterior margin that is drawn into a sharp median point, which is overreached by the inner pair of posterior telson spines (fig. 1A). The second chelae of the adult are equal or subequal, without tubercles along the cutting edges of the fingers (fig. 1B). The rostrum is longer than the scaphocerite, and its tip is curved upwards. The lower margin of the rostrum bears 5 or 6 teeth (fig. 1C). The remaining morphology is in agreement with existing descriptions (e.g., Holthuis, 1966; Chace & Hobbs, 1969).

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