

Macrofauna associated to fish ponds in the Oriental Plains of Colombia

Received 31-I-2001.

Accepted 27-III-2001.

Aquaculture in Restrepo (Department of Meta, Colombia) is based in nine fish species basically: (*Brycon siebentahle*, *Callophysus macropterus*, *Cyprinus carpio*, *C. carpio specularis*, *Oreochromis* spp., *Piaractus brachypomum*, *Prochilodus magdalena*e, *Pseudoplatystoma fasciatum*, *Tilapia nilotica*), but periodically suffer from natural predators that are introduced into the ponds or arrive with water as eggs and larvae. A list of these predators is reported for the first time: insects (Aeshnidae, Baethidae, Belostomatidae, Coenagrionidae, Chironomidae, Dytiscidae, Gomphidae, Libellulidae, Notonectidae, Veliiidae), river shrimps (*Forsteria venezuelensis* Rathbun, *Macrobrachium amazonicum* Heller, *M. brasiliense* Heller), fish (*Ancistrus trir-*

diatus, *Electrophorus electricus*, *Farlowella acutirostris*, *Hypostomus plecostomus*, *Loricariichthys typus*), birds (*Ardea cocoi*, *Elanus lecurus lecurus*, *Diaptrius ater*, *Sterna simplex*), turtle (*Podocnemis expansa*), caiman (*Caiman crocodilus*), snakes (*Amphybaena alba*, *Atractus* sp., *Boa constrictor*, *Erythrolampus aesculapii*) and an aquatic mammal (*Pteronura brasiliensis* Gmelin). The insects were confirmed by Ramón Mena and Eduardo Flórez, the crustaceans by Martha Campos-Rocha, the fish by Germán Galvis-Vergara and the snakes by Olga Castaño, all Institute of Natural Sciences, National University of Colombia (Bogotá), where the organisms are in the cataloguing process.

Javier E. Alvarez-Barrera, Sofía Sepúlveda-Cárdenas and Ricardo Alvarez-León
P.O. Box 101372 - Santa Fe de Bogotá D. C. - Colombia; alvarez_leon@hotmail.com