

## Morphological observations

Studying the larva of *L. japonica*, WHEELER & WHEELER (1988) described the lateral surfaces of the labrum having a few long slender sharp-pointed teeth, and they included this trait in the diagnosis of the genus. We have not found these teeth in the larvae of *L. charonea* and *L. zaballosi*. They are neither observed in the drawings and micrographs of other *Leptanilla* species (WHEELER 1928; WHEELER & WHEELER 1965; MASUKO 1990). We think that this morphological trait should be eliminated from the diagnosis of the genus.

Similarly, WHEELER & WHEELER (1965, 1988) also included the labial and maxillary palps having five sensillae in the diagnosis of the genus. In all our specimens we have only observed four sensillae in the labium and three in the maxilla.

## Biological notes

Due to their size and shape, the specimens of *L. charonea* seem to be final-instar larvae. 60% of them, however, had reached the prepupa stage, with swollen anterior segments. All larvae were aggregated in a single pile inside the nest chamber where they were found. This grouping of larvae is similar to that described by MASUKO (1990) in *L. japonica*. Larvae were also transported exactly as the present author described for this species. The morphology of *L. zaballosi* specimens collected in December and May did not differ (both were final-instar larvae). This coincides with MASUKO's (1990) data on larvae instars before and after winter, and supports his assumption that *Leptanilla* larvae overwinter.

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