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Distribution and species diversity of freshwater crabs of the family Pseudothelphusidae in Colombia (Crustacea: Decapoda: Brachyura)

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ABSTRACT

The study of Colombian freshwater crabs has advanced significantly, but species records are scattered across different museums and research institutions. Assuming that museum collections incorporate valuable information in estimating species diversity, a database was organized on the 94 known species of family Pseudothelphusidae, which includes 568 records from 1853 to 2019 in continental Colombia and Gorgona Island. The natural regions of Colombia (Amazonian, Andean, Caribbean, Orinoquian, Pacific) were further subdivided into 75 natural sub-regions according to habitat types used by freshwater crabs. Sub-regions were (i) ranked in terms of species richness, with respective species reported in each sub-region listed accordingly, and (ii) classified into a scale of five categories on the basis of a geometric biodiversity index combining species richness and Simpson index. Species accumulation curves are presented to estimate the current status of knowledge about the diversity of the Colombian pseudothelphusids. Although the available data are not standardized for an adequate assessment of relative abundance, since they are influenced by sampling efforts and natural sub-regions are of different sizes and characteristics, the present study may be useful in future ecological and biogeographic research, as well as for conservation purposes.

KEYWORDS

Biodiversity index, ecological indicators, endemic and non-endemic species, Neotropical region, species richness

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INTRODUCTION

Colombia is considered the most species-rich country for freshwater crabs (109 species) in South America and the second worldwide after China (243 species) (Cumberlidge *et al.*, 2011). Colombia has the highest endemism among the freshwater crabs of the family Pseudothelphusidae, with 86 species out of 94 endemic (91.5%), whereas of the 15 recorded species of Trichodactylidae only one is endemic (6.7%) (Campos, 2014).

Due to the direct relationship between environmental conditions and the distribution of freshwater crab populations, it is important to associate the species of the family Pseudothelphusidae with the five natural regions of continental Colombia (total land area approximately 1,141,748 km²), namely: the Caribbean, Andean, Pacific, Orinoquian and the Amazonian regions.

The characterization of Colombian natural regions is very broad (Alvarado, 2011). On the one hand, these areas differ from one another in many aspects, for example in the geographical size and in the physical, climatic, ecological, altitudinal and environmental conditions. On the other hand, natural regions connect with neighboring regions by transition zones, each one with their distinctive characteristics. In addition, many species are found in enclaves with particular ecological aspects. According to Alvarado's (2011) characterization, the natural regions of Colombia can be described as follows: (1) The Caribbean region comprises the area adjacent to the Caribbean Sea, which includes desert areas in La Guajira and rainforests in the Gulf of Uraba. The relief is characterized by being flat in its greatest extension. There are also some elevations such as the mountains of María, and the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, which is the highest in the region and the country. (2) The Andean region is made up of three major divisions formed by chains of high mountains (cordilleras), which are known as the Western, Central and Eastern cordilleras. This region covers approximately one third of the national territory, has a wide variety of altitude dependent climates, and is crossed by important rivers such as the Magdalena and Cauca, which run parallel to the mountains and flow into the Caribbean Sea. (3) The Pacific region has a high variety of climates and it

is considered one of the wettest places on the planet. The hydrography is abundant and is formed by rivers such as the Atrato, Baudó and San Juan to the north of the region, and the Patía and Mira to the south of the region. (4) The Orinoquian region lies between the eastern mountain range, the Orinoco river, and the Arauca and Guaviare rivers. This region is formed by plains and savannahs and has some isolated mountain ranges with medium elevations. The main peak is the Serranía de la Macarena. (5) The Amazonian region in southern Colombia is mainly covered by tropical forests. It borders the Eastern cordillera along the western edge, in the north it includes the Guaviare and Vichada rivers and to the south it extends to the Putumayo and Amazon rivers. This region is formed by lowlands, with some undulations such as the Serranía de Chiribiquete. The weather is warm and very humid due to frequent rains.

The aim of this study is to do an assessment of the specific diversity of the Pseudothelphusidae freshwater crabs at the level of the selected 75 natural sub-regions and, even though the available data are not standardized for an adequate assessment of relative abundance (since they are influenced by sampling efforts and natural sub-regions are of different sizes and characteristics), to provide useful insights for future ecological and biogeographic research, as well as for conservation purposes.

MATERIAL AND METHODS

In order to assess the diversity of the pseudothelphusid crabs in the natural regions of Colombia, a database was first built listing the information available in the collections lots of Colombian pseudothelphusid crabs deposited in different museums and institutions around the world. Then, the sub-regions have been characterized in terms of their species richness by using a geometric index for measuring species diversity (Campos and Isaza, 2009).

Database

This study uses a database with 568 records of samples of Pseudothelphusidae crabs collected from 1853 to 2019 on continental Colombia and Gorgona Island. A total of 6,263 specimens corresponding to

94 species, which are coded by consecutive numbers from 1 to 94, were included. The records are organized in a spreadsheet with 568 rows and 10 columns, in which the row contains the following ten fields of information: family (column 1), genus (2), species numerical code (3), species name (4), natural region (5), number of collected specimens (6), year sampled (7), institutional repository (8), natural sub-region collected from (9), and endemic status (10).

Data for the construction of the database were gathered from sixteen museums and research institutions, including species, type material,

number of records and specimens (Tab. 1). Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá (ICN-MHN) is the greatest contributor to the database with 72.54% of the records and 86.91% of the number of specimens, while other museums and research institutions provide 27.46% and 13.09%, respectively. The 94 Pseudothelphusidae species considered in this study include 4 subspecies of the *Hypolobocera bouvieri* (Rathbun, 1898) species-complex due to its presence in different sub-regions of Colombia.

Table 1. Museums and research institutions whose collections of the family Pseudothelphusidae have been used for the construction of the database. The last column includes the numbers of records (RE) and specimens (Specim). The abbreviations male (M) and female (F) are used.

Collection	Species name	Number of specimens and type material	RE/Specim
CRBMUV		Museo de Biología Marina, Universidad del Valle, Cali	45/194
	<i>Hypolobocera alata</i>	1M Holotype, 1F Paratype of <i>Hypolobocera solimani</i> Ramos-Tafur, 2006, are junior synonym of <i>H. alata</i>	
	<i>Hypolobocera beieri</i>	95	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i>	1	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i>	7	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i>	7	
	<i>Hypolobocera buenaventurensis</i>	11; 1M Holotype, 1F Paratype of <i>Hypolobocera olgaluciae</i> Ramos-Tafur and Ríos, 2007, are junior synonym of <i>H. buenaventurensis</i>	
	<i>Hypolobocera cajambrensis</i>	5: 1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i>	2M	
	<i>Hypolobocera dentata</i>	1M Holotype, 1F Paratype	
	<i>Hypolobocera gorgonensis</i>	9: 1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera lloroensis</i>	3	
	<i>Hypolobocera malaguena</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera martelathami</i>	4; 1M Holotype of <i>Hypolobocera merenbergensis</i> Prah and Giraldo, 1985, are junior synonym of <i>H. martelathami</i>	
	<i>Hypolobocera meinelii</i>	6: 1M Holotype, 1M Paratype	
	<i>Hypolobocera rotundilobata</i>	9	
	<i>Lindacatalina orientalis</i>	3	
	<i>Neostrengeria botti</i>	2	
	<i>Neostrengeria guenterii</i>	2	
	<i>Neostrengeria macropa</i>	5	
	<i>Potamocarcinus colombiensis</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Phallangothelpusa dispar</i>	12	
	<i>Strengeriana huilensis</i>	3	
FMNH		Field Museum of Natural History, Chicago	1/2
	<i>Moritschus caucasensis</i>	2	
GM		Genève Museum	1/4
	<i>Strengeriana restrepoi</i>	1M Holotype, 1M, 2F, 1 juvenile Paratypes	
IaVH		Museum Alexander von Humboldt Institute, Villa de Leyva, Boyacá	1/3
	<i>Phallangothelpusa tangerina</i>	1M Holotype, 1M, 1F Paratypes	

Table 1. Cont.

Collection	Species name	Number of specimens and type material	RE/Specim
ICN-MHN	Instituto de Ciencias Naturales, Museo de Historia Natural, Universidad Nacional de Colombia, Bogotá	45M Holotypes, 293 Paratypes	412/5443
INPA	Instituto Nacional de Pesquisas da Amazônia, Manaus, Brazil		1/3
	<i>Moritschus caucasensis</i>	1M Holotype, 1M, 1F Paratypes	
IVIC	Instituto Venezolano de Investigaciones Científicas, Caracas		6/38
	<i>Chaceus cesarensis</i>	1M Holotype, 1F Paratype	
	<i>Chaceus pearsei</i>	21	
	<i>Fredius granulatus</i>	1M Paratype	
	<i>Martiana clausa</i>	5	
	<i>Neostrengeria charalensis</i>	1	
	<i>Neostrengeria sketi</i>	8	
MB-UCV	Universidad Central de Venezuela, Caracas		2/19
	<i>Chaceus nasutus</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i>	14M, 4F Paratypes	
MLS	Museo de La Salle, Bogotá		29/193
	<i>Chaceus pearsei</i>	2	
	<i>Hypolobocera beieri</i>	34	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri estenobata</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Neostrengeria botti</i>	8	
	<i>Neostrengeria boyacensis</i>	6: 1M Holotype, 1F Paratype	
	<i>Neostrengeria gilberti</i>	25	
	<i>Neostrengeria guenteri</i>	12	
	<i>Neostrengeria lasallei</i>	17: 1M Holotype, 2M Paratypes	
	<i>Neostrengeria libradensis</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i>	30	
	<i>Neostrengeria macropa</i>	13	
	<i>Neostrengeria monterrodoensis</i>	8	
	<i>Neostrengeria niceforoi</i>	8	
	<i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i>	15	
	<i>Strengeriana cajaensis</i>	3	
	<i>Strengeriana casallasi</i>	1M Holotype, 2M, 3F Paratypes	
	<i>Strengeriana foresti</i>	1M Holotype	
MP	Museum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris		1/4
	<i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i>	1M, 2F, 1 juvenile Syntypes	
MUAICR	Museo Universidad de Antioquia, Medellín, Colombia		16/110
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i>	2	
	<i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i>	1	
	<i>Neostrengeria macropa</i>	5	
	<i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i>	17	
	<i>Strengeriana antioquiensis</i>	21	
	<i>Strengeriana bolivarensis</i>	5	
	<i>Strengeriana flagellata</i>	9	
	<i>Strengeriana fuhrmanni</i>	43	
	<i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i>	5	
NHM	Natural History Museum, London		5/26
	<i>Hypolobocera andagoensis</i>	1	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i>	4M: 1M Holotype, 1M Paratype	
	<i>Strengeriana fuhrmanni</i>	20 Syntypes	

Table 1. Cont.

Collection	Species name	Number of specimens and type material	RE/Specim
SMF	Research Institute and Natural History Museum Senckenberg, Frankfurt		14/29
	<i>Chaceus nasutus</i>	1	
	<i>Chaceus pearsei</i>	1	
	<i>Neostrengeria botti</i>	12: 1M Holotype	
	<i>Neostrengeria charalensis</i>	1	
	<i>Neostrengeria guenteri</i>	4	
	<i>Neostrengeria lasallei</i>	1	
	<i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i>	1	
	<i>Neostrengeria macropa</i>	3	
	<i>Neostrengeria monterrodendoensis</i>	1M Paratype	
	<i>Neostrengeria niceforoi</i>	1	
	<i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i>	1M Holotype, 2M, 1F Paratypes	
TU	Museum of Natural History of Tulane University		19/66
	<i>Chaceus pearsei</i>	2	
	<i>Hypolobocera beieri</i>	40	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i>	1	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i>	5	
	<i>Hypolobocera gorgonensis</i>	1	
	<i>Hypolobocera llorensensis</i>	1	
	<i>Hypolobocera martelathami</i>	2	
	<i>Hypolobocera noanamensis</i>	1M Holotype, 1F Paratype	
	<i>Hypolobocera rotundilobata</i>	2	
	<i>Lindacatalina orientalis</i>	2	
	<i>Lindacatalina sinuensis</i>	1M Holotype, 1F Paratype	
	<i>Lindacatalina sumacensis</i>	1	
	<i>Moritschus altaquerensis</i>	1M, 1F Paratypes	
	<i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i>	1	
	<i>Strengeriana taironae</i>	2	
UL	Biology Institute, University of Ljubljana, Slovene		2/5
	<i>Neostrengeria niceforoi</i>	2	
	<i>Neostrengeria sketi</i>	1M Holotype, 2F Paratypes	
USNM	National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C.		13/124
	<i>Chaceus pearsei</i>	2: 1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera andagoensis</i>	63: 1M Holotype, 14M, 2F Paratypes	
	<i>Hypolobocera beieri</i>	6: 1M Holotype, 2M Paratypes	
	<i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera cajambrensis</i>	1M Paratype	
	<i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i>	36	
	<i>Hypolobocera martelathami</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Hypolobocera mutisi</i>	1M Paratype	
	<i>Hypolobocera rotundilobata</i>	7: 1M Holotype, 5M, 1F Paratypes; 1M Holotype, 5M Paratypes of <i>Hypolobocera triangula</i> Ramos-Tafur, 2006, are junior synonym of <i>H. rotundilobata</i>	
	<i>Martiana clausa</i>	1M Holotype, 1M, 2F Paratypes	
	<i>Neostrengeria guenteri</i>	1M Holotype	
	<i>Neostrengeria perijaensis</i>	1M Paratype	
TOTAL			568/6263

Natural sub-regions

In this study we propose a characterization of the species of the family Pseudothelphusidae in a more localized level than that of the natural regions established in Alvarado (2011). For this, the hydrographic map of continental Colombia (IDEAM, 2013) was utilized to identify the habitat types from which freshwater crabs have been collected, such as watersheds, wetlands, streams, springs (Campos, 2014). Based on these criteria we have identified 75 sub-regions where the conditions for the presence of the crabs exist. As a microscope-like tool, the purpose of the division into 75 natural sub-regions is to advance the knowledge of the geographical distribution of the 94 species of the family Pseudothelphusidae by going from the macro-geographic level (five natural regions) to the micro-level (75 sub-regions). The location of the sub-regions is shown in Fig. 1, and the information for each of them is given in Tab. 2.

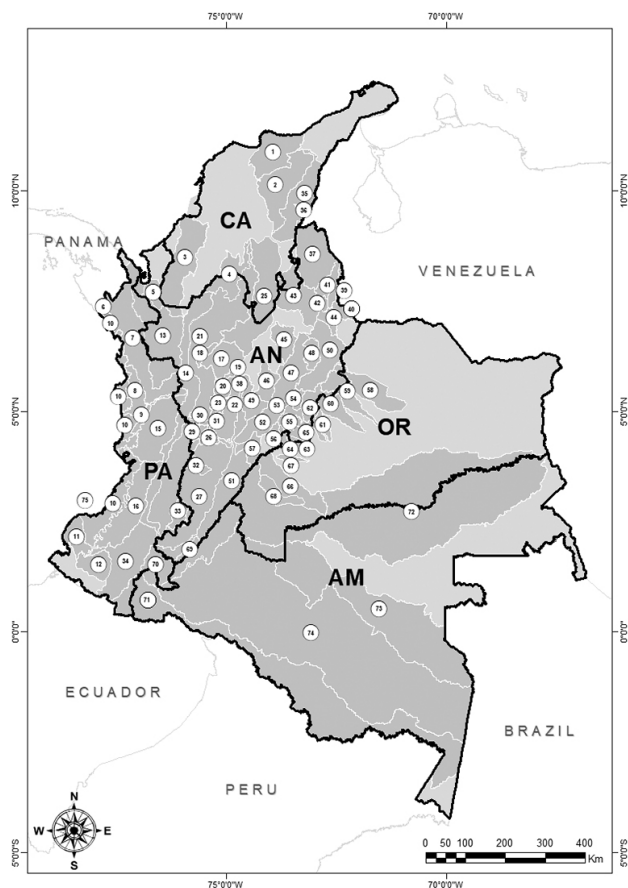


Figure 1. Natural regions of continental Colombia: Andean (AN), Amazonian (AM), Caribbean (CA), Orinoquian (OR) and Pacific (PA). In this study, 75 natural sub-regions are considered, including Gorgona island.

Each natural sub-region is identified by its full name, an acronym and a numerical code, which is useful not only for information processing but also to abbreviate the reference to it. For example, “Eastern Cordillera, Bogotá river” is referred to as “(52, CorBog)”, according to the coding in Tab. 2.

The assignment of codes to species and sub-regions is intended to facilitate the management of information, *i.e.*, the database can be accessed, managed, reorganized and updated without risk of changing information. During the analysis of the information, one of the authors (MRC) described three new species (*Neostrengeria fernandezi* Campos, 2017; *Neostrengeria lassoii* Campos, 2017; *Phallangothelphusa tangerina* Campos, Lasso and Arias, 2019), for which it was sufficient to assign them codes 92, 93, and 94.

The information in Tab. 2 is depicted in Fig. 2, in which the 94 species (*y*-axis) are represented in terms of the sub-regions (*x*-axis). Table 2 also lists the taxonomic authorities of all species cited in the main text and henceforward, for better fluency of reading, this information will be omitted in the text when the name of a species is mentioned for the first time.

Species diversity index

In order to quantify the diversity of pseudothelphusid freshwater crabs in Colombia and facilitate graphical data visualization, the species diversity index $B_1(S,r)$ proposed by Campos and Isaza (2009) was employed. This index has been applied in the characterization of ecological systems (Campos and Campos, 2012; 2017).

We are aware that: (i) The species diversity of freshwater crabs from Colombia has been affected over time, including the period from 1853 to 2019 in which the data was collected, by natural events and by the impact of anthropogenic actions (deforestation, environmental pollution, habitat fragmentation and climate change, among many others). (ii) The data obtained from the collections of museums and other research institutions has been gathered using different purposes and methodologies. Therefore, since they are influenced by the effort of the samplings, the available data do not reflect a standardized sampling of the number of species, nor of the relative abundance, and we only get a very rough description of the freshwater crabs of Colombia. However, it is noteworthy that

records in databases have been successfully used by other authors as a surrogate of sampling effort (Soberón *et al.*, 2007). (iii) The results provide baseline information that can be used for future observations and estimation of species diversity, and to assess whether diversity has been preserved, has declined or has increased.

In each one of the 75 sub-regions there is a S -species community, labeled as $\{1, 2, \dots, S\}$, that is represented in the database by $\{N_1, N_2, \dots, N_S\}$ specimens, for a total of $N = \sum_{m=1}^S N_m$ specimens associated with the sub-region in consideration. Defining $p_m = N_m / N$, we find the probability distribution $p = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_S\}$ that represents the relative abundance of species, which satisfies the normalization condition $\sum_{m=1}^S p_m = 1$.

Denoting by RE the number of records made in the sub-region under consideration, then $(N_1 + N_2 + \dots + N_S) / RE$ is the average number of specimens captured in that sub-region (it is independent of the species to which they belong). Therefore, in order to standardize the number of specimens of the species among sub-regions, we substitute the set $\{N_1, N_2, \dots, N_S\}$ by the values $\{N_1 / RE, N_2 / RE, \dots, N_S / RE\}$, which add up

N / RE . The probability remains unchanged, since $p_m = (N_m / RE) / (N / RE) = N_m / N$, for $m = 1, 2, \dots, S$.

A measure of homogeneity or concentration of any finite probability distribution, p , is the Simpson index D (Izsák and Papp, 2000),

$$D = r^2 := \sum_{m=1}^S (p_m)^2$$

that varies in the interval $0 < D \leq 1$. Thus, low values of the index D reveal homogeneity and high values indicate concentration. It is worth mentioning that the Simpson index D describes the probability that two organisms drawn randomly and independently from a population belong to the same species. The above equation is related to a sphere of radius $r = \sqrt{D}$ in Euclidian space of S dimensions, and $0 < r \leq 1$. The species diversity index of order one (1) is given by the relation (Campos and Isaza, 2009)

$$B_1(S, r) = \frac{\alpha_1(S)}{r},$$

where $\alpha_1(S)$ is a monotonous increasing function of the number of species, S . The $B_1(S, r)$ index allows us to interpret changes in species diversity as

Table 2. Species of the family Pseudothelphusidae present in each one of the 75 sub-regions considered in this study. For each sub-region, it is specified: code and acronym (column 1), sub-region name and natural region to which it belongs. This is followed by (code, name) of the species recorded there (column 2), total numbers of records (RE) (column 3), number of species for each sub-region (column 4) and numbers of specimens (column 5). Symbol Δ indicates a non-endemic species.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
1, Ssm	Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Caribbean natural region			
	4, <i>Chaceus davidi</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1984			5
	6, <i>Chaceus nasutus</i> Rodríguez, 1980			5
	7, <i>Chaceus pearsei</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			49
	15 Δ , <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			23
	39, <i>Martiana clausa</i> Rodríguez, 1980			9
	88, <i>Strengeriana taironae</i> Rodríguez and Campos, 1989			9
		32	6	100
2, CaribeCes	Caribbean, Cesar river, Caribbean natural region			
	2, <i>Chaceus cesarensis</i> Rodríguez and Vilorio, 1992			2
	3, <i>Chaceus curumanensis</i> Campos and Valencia, 2004			2
	5, <i>Chaceus ibiricensis</i> Campos and Valencia, 2004			86
		3	3	90
3, CaribeSi	Caribbean, Sinú river, Caribbean natural region			
	32, <i>Hypolobocera noanamensis</i> Rodríguez, Campos and López, 2002			3
	37, <i>Lindacatalina sinuensis</i> Rodríguez, Campos and López, 2002			25
	69, <i>Potamocarcinus pinzoni</i> Campos, 2003			2
		6	3	30

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
4, CaribeCau	Caribbean, Cauca river, Caribbean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			2
		1	1	2
5, CbioLeo	Biogeographic Chocó, León river, Pacific natural region			
	69, <i>Potamocarcinus pinzoni</i> Campos, 2003			1
		1	1	1
6, CbioJur	Biogeographic Chocó, Juradó river, Pacific natural region			
	68, <i>Potamocarcinus colombiensis</i> Prah and Ramos, 1987			1
		1	1	1
7, CbioAt	Biogeographic Chocó, Atrato river, Pacific natural region			
	1, <i>Colombiathelphusa culmarcuata</i> Campos and Magalhães, 2014			12
	8Δ, <i>Eidocamptophallus chacei</i> (Pretzmann, 1967)			1
	21, <i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			2
	26, <i>Hypolobocera llorensensis</i> Campos, 1989			11
	30, <i>Hypolobocera murindensis</i> Campos, 2003			10
	69, <i>Potamocarcinus pinzoni</i> Campos, 2003			15
		13	6	51
8, CbioBau	Biogeographic Chocó, Baudó river, Pacific natural region			
	21, <i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			16
	32, <i>Hypolobocera noanamensis</i> Rodríguez, Campos and López, 2002			1
	69, <i>Potamocarcinus pinzoni</i> Campos, 2003			2
		6	3	19
9, CbioSJ	Biogeographic Chocó, San Juan river, Pacific natural region			
	11, <i>Hypolobocera alata</i> Campos, 1989			1
	12, <i>Hypolobocera andagoensis</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			83
	21, <i>Hypolobocera chocoensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			125
	26, <i>Hypolobocera llorensensis</i> Campos, 1989			2
	32, <i>Hypolobocera noanamensis</i> Rodríguez, Campos and López, 2002			2
		12	5	213
10, CbioPac	Biogeographic Chocó, Pacific, Pacific natural region			
	19, <i>Hypolobocera buenaventurensis</i> (Rathbun, 1905)			4
	20, <i>Hypolobocera cajambrensis</i> Prah, 1988			7
	26, <i>Hypolobocera llorensensis</i> Campos, 1989			8
	27, <i>Hypolobocera malaguena</i> Prah, 1988			1
	29, <i>Hypolobocera meinelii</i> Prah, 1988			5
				3
		11	6	28
11, CbioPat	Biogeographic Chocó, Patía river, Pacific natural region			
	13, <i>Hypolobocera barbacensis</i> Campos, Magalhães and Rodríguez, 2003			15
	29, <i>Hypolobocera meinelii</i> Prah, 1988			3
	40, <i>Moritschus altaquerensis</i> Rodríguez, Campos and López, 2002			20
		6	3	38
12, CbioTel	Biogeographic Chocó, Telembí river, Pacific natural region			
	13, <i>Hypolobocera barbacensis</i> Campos, Magalhães and Rodríguez, 2003			12
	40, <i>Moritschus altaquerensis</i> Rodríguez, Campos and López, 2002			19
	42, <i>Moritschus narinnensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1988			29
		6	3	60

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
13, CocAt	Western cordillera, Atrato river, Andean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			6
	23, <i>Hypolobocera emberarum</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1995			30
	26, <i>Hypolobocera llorensis</i> Campos, 1989			28
	34, <i>Hypolobocera velezi</i> Campos, 2003			5
		10	4	69
14, CocCau	Western cordillera, Cauca river, Andean natural region			
	14, <i>Hypolobocera beieri</i> Pretzmann, 1968			118
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			3
	22, <i>Hypolobocera dentata</i> Prah, 1987			2
	41, <i>Moritschus caucasensis</i> Campos, Magalhães and Rodríguez, 2003			5
86, <i>Strengeriana restrepoi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			2	
		16	5	130
15, CocSJ	Western cordillera, San Juan river, Andean natural region			
	11, <i>Hypolobocera alata</i> Campos, 1989			8
	14, <i>Hypolobocera beieri</i> Pretzmann, 1968			3
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			151
	21, <i>Hypolobocera choconensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			2
	26, <i>Hypolobocera llorensis</i> Campos, 1989			5
	33, <i>Hypolobocera rotundilobata</i> Rodríguez, 1994			20
	34, <i>Hypolobocera velezi</i> Campos, 2003			7
87, <i>Strengeriana risaraldensis</i> Rodríguez and Campos, 1989			109	
		18	8	305
16, CocPac	Western cordillera, Pacific, Andean natural region			
	14, <i>Hypolobocera beieri</i> Pretzmann, 1968			24
	19, <i>Hypolobocera buenaventurensis</i> (Rathbun, 1905)			11
		12	2	35
17, CceNare	Central cordillera, Nare river, Andean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			1
	71, <i>Phallangothelphusa juansei</i> Campos, 2010a			2
		2	2	3
18, CceMed	Central cordillera, Medellín river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			4
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			4
	75, <i>Strengeriana antioquensis</i> Prah, 1987			27
		10	3	35
19, CceCoco	Central cordillera, Cocorná river, Andean natural region			
	80, <i>Strengeriana flagellata</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			11
		3	1	11
20, CceMiel	Central cordillera, La Miel river, Andean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			16
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			79
	81, <i>Strengeriana florenciae</i> Campos, 1995			14
	85, <i>Strengeriana maniformis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			79
		16	4	188
21, CceCau	Central cordillera, Cauca river, Andean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			14

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
	76, <i>Strengeriana bolivarensis</i> Rodríguez and Campos, 1989			8
	83, <i>Strengeriana fuhrmanni</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			75
	86, <i>Strengeriana restrepoi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			4
		21	4	101
22, CceGual	Central cordillera, Gualí river, Andean natural region			
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			2
	85, <i>Strengeriana maniformis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			1
		2	2	3
23, CceGuar	Central cordillera, Guarínó river, Andean natural region			
	82, <i>Strengeriana foresti</i> Rodríguez, 1980			1
	85, <i>Strengeriana maniformis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			1
		2	2	2
24, CceBar	Central cordillera, Barbas river, Andean natural region			
	86, <i>Strengeriana restrepoi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			2
		1	1	2
25, CceMa	Central cordillera, Magdalena river, Andean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			1
	28, <i>Hypolobocera martelathami</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			48
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			3
	84, <i>Strengeriana huilensis</i> Rodríguez and Campos, 1989			3
		4	4	55
26, CceCoe	Central cordillera, Coello river, Andean natural region			
	77, <i>Strengeriana cajaensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			2
	85, <i>Strengeriana maniformis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			3
	89, <i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i> Rodríguez and Díaz, 1981			24
		5	3	29
27, CceBog	Central cordillera, Bogotá river, Andean natural region			
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			5
		2	1	5
28, CceAzu	Central cordillera, Azufrado river, Andean natural region			
	77, <i>Strengeriana cajaensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			35
	78, <i>Strengeriana casallasi</i> Campos, 1999			7
	90, <i>Strengeriana villaensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2006			4
		8	3	46
29, CceQui	Central cordillera, Quindío river, Andean natural region			
	89, <i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i> Rodríguez and Díaz, 1981			3
		1	1	3
30, CceOtun	Central cordillera, Otún river, Andean natural region			
	86, <i>Strengeriana restrepoi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			24
		2	1	24
31, CceCom	Central cordillera, Combeima river, Andean natural region			
	89, <i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i> Rodríguez and Díaz, 1981			1
		1	1	1
32, CceAmo	Central cordillera, Amoyá river, Andean natural region			
	17, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			94
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			2
	79, <i>Strengeriana chaparralensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1984			50

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
	89, <i>Strengeriana tolimensis</i> Rodríguez and Díaz, 1981			10
		20	4	156
33, CcePaez	Central cordillera, Páez river, Andean natural region			
	28, <i>Hypolobocera martelathamii</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			14
	36Δ, <i>Lindacatalina orientalis</i> (Pretzmann, 1968)			7
		5	2	21
34, CcePat	Central cordillera, Patía river, Andean natural region			
	14, <i>Hypolobocera beieri</i> Pretzmann, 1968			44
	36Δ, <i>Lindacatalina orientalis</i> (Pretzmann, 1968)			19
		8	2	63
35, CorCes	Eastern cordillera, Cesar river, Andean natural region			
	15Δ, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			1
		1	1	1
36, CorTuc	Eastern cordillera, Tucuy river, Andean natural region			
	15Δ, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			44
	63, <i>Neostrengeria perijaensis</i> Campos and Lemaitre, 1998			52
		3	2	96
37, CorCat	Eastern cordillera, Catatumbo river, Andean natural region			
	15, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			6
		2	1	6
38, MmeMa	Middle Magdalena, Magdalena river, Andean natural region			
	15, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			1
	72, <i>Phallangothelphusa magdalenensis</i> Campos, 1998			65
		5	2	66
39, CorPam	Eastern cordillera, Pamplonita river, Andean natural region			
	65, <i>Neostrengeria tencalanensis</i> Campos, 1992			148
		2	1	148
40, CorTach	Eastern cordillera, Táchira river, Andean natural region			
	44, <i>Neostrengeria appressa</i> Campos, 1992			149
	67Δ, <i>Orthothelphusa holthuisi</i> (Rodríguez, 1967)			33
		3	2	182
41, CorZu	Eastern cordillera, Zulia river, Andean natural region			
	57, <i>Neostrengeria lobulata</i> Campos, 1992			18
		2	1	18
42, CorCuc	Eastern cordillera, Cucutilla river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			3
		1	1	3
43, CorLebr	Eastern cordillera, Lebrija river, Andean natural region			
	15, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata</i> (Rathbun, 1915)			1
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			133
	66, <i>Neostrengeria tonensis</i> Campos, 1992			155
	73, <i>Phallangothelphusa martensis</i> Cardona and Campos, 2012			10
		11	4	299
44, CorMar	Eastern cordillera, Margua river, Andean natural region			
	91, <i>Neostrengeria libradensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			1
		1	1	1

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
45, CorOpon	Eastern cordillera, Opón river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			4
	64, <i>Neostrengeria sketi</i> Rodríguez, 1985			16
	94, <i>Phallangothelphusa tangerina</i> Campos, Lasso and Arias, 2019			15
		7	3	35
46, CorMin	Eastern cordillera, Minero river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			31
	45, <i>Neostrengeria aspera</i> Campos, 1992			2
	48, <i>Neostrengeria botti</i> Rodríguez and Türkay, 1978			151
	52, <i>Neostrengeria gilberti</i> Campos, 1992			34
	55, <i>Neostrengeria lemaitrei</i> Campos, 2004			10
	92, <i>Neostrengeria fernandesi</i> Campos, 2017			4
72, <i>Phallangothelphusa magdalenensis</i> Campos, 1998			66	
		12	7	298
47, CorSua	Eastern cordillera, Suárez river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			29
	51, <i>Neostrengeria charalensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1985			283
	62, <i>Neostrengeria niceforoi</i> (Schmitt, 1969)			80
		24	3	392
48, CorFon	Eastern cordillera, Fonce river, Andean natural region			
	51, <i>Neostrengeria charalensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1985			18
	62, <i>Neostrengeria niceforoi</i> (Schmitt, 1969)			87
		10	2	105
49, CorNeg1	Eastern cordillera, Negro river 1, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			191
	45, <i>Neostrengeria aspera</i> Campos, 1992			11
	48, <i>Neostrengeria botti</i> Rodríguez and Türkay, 1978			86
	52, <i>Neostrengeria gilberti</i> Campos, 1992			4
	56, <i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i> (Rathbun, 1897)			15
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			19
72, <i>Phallangothelphusa magdalenensis</i> Campos, 1998			59	
		27	7	385
50, CorChi	Eastern cordillera, Chicamocha river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			24
	49, <i>Neostrengeria boyacensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			164
		8	2	188
51, CorMa	Eastern cordillera, Magdalena river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			61
	18, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri estenlobata</i> Rodríguez, 1980			18
	48, <i>Neostrengeria botti</i> Rodríguez and Türkay, 1978			14
	93, <i>Neostrengeria lassoii</i> Campos, 2017			4
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			12
84, <i>Strengeriana huilensis</i> Rodríguez and Campos, 1989			22	
		16	6	131
52, CorBog	Eastern cordillera, Bogotá river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun, 1898)			26
	47, <i>Neostrengeria binderi</i> Campos, 2000			3
	48, <i>Neostrengeria botti</i> Rodríguez and Türkay, 1978			53

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
	52, <i>Neostrengeria gilberti</i> Campos, 1992			10
	56, <i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i> (Rathbun, 1897)			83
	59, <i>Neostrengeria macropa</i> (H. Milne Edwards, 1853)			168
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			107
		55	7	450
53, CorBat	Eastern cordillera, Batá river, Andean natural region			
	46, <i>Neostrengeria bataensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			1
	54, <i>Neostrengeria lasallei</i> Rodríguez, 1980			57
		7	2	58
54, CorGar	Eastern cordillera, Garagoa river, Andean natural region			
	49, <i>Neostrengeria boyacensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			97
	54, <i>Neostrengeria lasallei</i> Rodríguez, 1980			192
		7	2	289
55, CorGua	Eastern cordillera, Guavio river, Andean natural region			
	46, <i>Neostrengeria bataensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			24
	54, <i>Neostrengeria lasallei</i> Rodríguez, 1980			41
		4	2	65
56, CorNeg2	Eastern cordillera, Negro river 2, Andean natural region			
	53, <i>Neostrengeria guenteri</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			82
	56, <i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i> (Rathbun, 1897)			1
	60, <i>Neostrengeria monterrodoensis</i> (Bott, 1967)			143
		10	3	226
57, CorSum	Eastern cordillera, Sumapaz river, Andean natural region			
	16, <i>Hypolobocera bouvieri bouvieri</i> (Rathbun)			6
	47, <i>Neostrengeria binderi</i> Campos, 2000			1
	56, <i>Neostrengeria lindigiana</i> (Rathbun, 1897)			42
	70, <i>Phallangothelphusa dispar</i> (Zimmer, 1912)			24
	77, <i>Strengeriana cajaanensis</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1993			21
		18	5	94
58, OriPau	Orinoquian, Pauto river, Orinoquian natural region			
	9, <i>Eudaniela casanarensis</i> (Campos, 2001)			26
		2	1	26
59, OriCra	Orinoquian, Cravo Sur river, Orinoquian natural region			
	9, <i>Eudaniela casanarensis</i> (Campos, 2001)			70
	50, <i>Neostrengeria celioi</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			5
		4	2	75
60, OriCus	Orinoquian, Cusiana river, Orinoquian natural region			
	9, <i>Eudaniela casanarensis</i> (Campos, 2001)			47
	46, <i>Neostrengeria bataensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			14
	50, <i>Neostrengeria celioi</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			36
		6	3	97
61, OriTua	Orinoquian, Túa river, Orinoquian natural region			
	9, <i>Eudaniela casanarensis</i> (Campos, 2001)			10
	46, <i>Neostrengeria bataensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			1
		2	2	11
62, CorUpia	Eastern cordillera, Upía river, Andean natural region			
	49, <i>Neostrengeria boyacensis</i> Rodríguez, 1980			4
		1	1	4

Table 2. Cont.

Sub-region Code and Acronym	Name of sub-region and natural region. Code and species name	RE	Sp. (N)	Spec.
63, CorGuac	Eastern cordillera, Guacavía river, Andean natural region			
	53, <i>Neostrengeria guenterii</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			126
		4	1	126
64, CorGuat	Eastern cordillera, Guatiquía river, Andean natural region			
	46, <i>Neostrengeria bataensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			1
	53, <i>Neostrengeria guenterii</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			297
		16	2	298
65, OriHum	Orinoquian, Humea river, Orinoquian natural region			
	43, <i>Neostrengeria alexae</i> Campos, 2010b			8
	46, <i>Neostrengeria bataensis</i> Campos and Pedraza, 2008			18
		2	2	26
66, OriAri	Orinoquian, Ariari river, Orinoquian natural region			
	53, <i>Neostrengeria guenterii</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			43
		2	1	43
67, OriAca	Orinoquian, Acacías river, Orinoquian natural region			
	53, <i>Neostrengeria guenterii</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			24
	61, <i>Neostrengeria natashae</i> Campos, 2011			2
		5	2	26
68, OriGue	Orinoquian, Güejar river, Orinoquian natural region			
	58, <i>Neostrengeria macarenae</i> Campos, 1992			1
		1	1	1
69, CorSuaza	Eastern cordillera, Suaza river, Andean natural region			
	28, <i>Hypolobocera martelathami</i> (Pretzmann, 1965)			23
		1	1	23
70, CorCa	Eastern cordillera, Caquetá river, Andean natural region			
	25, <i>Hypolobocera kamsarum</i> Campos and Rodríguez, 1995			5
	35Δ, <i>Lindacatalina latipenis</i> (Pretzmann, 1968)			9
		3	2	14
71, AmazoPu	Amazonian, Putumayo river, Amazonian natural region			
	38Δ, <i>Lindacatalina sumacensis</i> Rodríguez and Sternberg, 1998			4
		3	1	4
72, AmazoGua	Amazonian, Guaviare river, Amazonian natural region			
	74Δ, <i>Prionothelphusa eliasi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			2
		2	1	2
73, AmazoApa	Amazonian, Apaporis river, Amazonian natural region			
	10, <i>Fredius granulatus</i> Rodríguez and Campos, 1998			12
	74Δ, <i>Prionothelphusa eliasi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			3
		4	2	15
74, AmazoCa	Amazonian, Caquetá river, Amazonian natural region			
	74Δ, <i>Prionothelphusa eliasi</i> Rodríguez, 1980			3
		1	1	3
75, Gor	Gorgona Island, Pacific natural region			
	24Δ, <i>Hypolobocera gorgonensis</i> Prah, 1983			13
		6	1	13

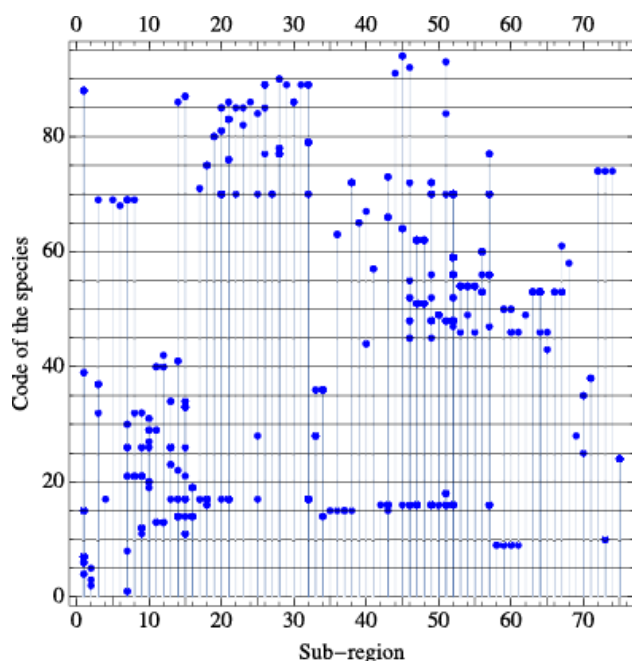


Figure 2. Distribution of the 94 species (y-axis) in the 75 natural sub-regions (x-axis) considered in this study. The number of points along a vertical line gives the number of species recorded in the selected sub-region, and the values of those points on the vertical axis identify the species by the codes assigned to them. Given a y-value, by following the horizontal line we identify the sub-regions where the species is recorded. For example, the species (15Δ) *Hypolobocera bowieri angulata* has been recorded for 6-subregions.

a combination of two contributions, species richness and abundance distribution.

The $B_1(S, r)$ biodiversity index used in this study allows the classification of the 75 sub-regions that we have considered, taking into account not only the number S of species in the sub-region but also the relative abundances $p = \{p_1, p_2, \dots, p_S\}$, where p_n is the relation between the number of specimens of the n -th species and the total number of specimens of all species collected in the sub-region. As previously noted, due to the lack of standardization of the database used in this work, it may be only used as a proxy that resembles the relative abundance. In addition, although 94 freshwater crab species have been recorded for Colombia, number S may change over time, either because new species are discovered or by the disappearance of some of them.

RESULTS

In relation to the history of the records and the description of the 94 species, we make a graph of the total number of species known ($S = 94$) in Colombia as a function of time (Fig. 3): one curve (circles) shows the year in which the first record of each species took place; the other curve (squares) shows the year in which the species was described in the literature. In both cases, these curves show that the initially rate of increase in the number of species observed (period 1897 to 1960) rises slightly, but increased significantly, after 1960. As more species are known, both curves should flatten and reach asymptotic values, which would indicate the approximate actual specific diversity of the Colombian pseudothelphusids.

The Fig. 3 corresponds to the sub-region San Juan river in the Western cordillera (15, CocSJ), where eight species coexist, and shows that the type material of the species was collected in some cases many years before its description. For example, *Hypolobocera chochoensis* (21) was described in 1980, whereas the type material was collected in 1910 and deposited at Natural History Museum, London (NHM). In the case of *Hypolobocera rotundilobata* (33), the holotype was collected in 1962, deposited at National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution (USNM), and the description took place in 1994.

As seen in Tab. 2, the sub-region with the largest number of records is the Eastern cordillera, Bogotá river (52, CorBog), followed by the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta (1, Ssm), the Eastern cordillera, Negro river 1 (49, CorNeg1) and the Eastern cordillera, Suárez river (47, CorSua). This could indicate that the number of studies conducted in these sub-regions is larger than those in other localities. However, as noted in the Material and Methods Section, all sub-regions have been treated on an equal footing by using the average number of specimens captured in each sub-region.

In Tab. 2, the numerical codes in the database correspond to the species of the family Pseudothelphusidae. The non-endemic species are

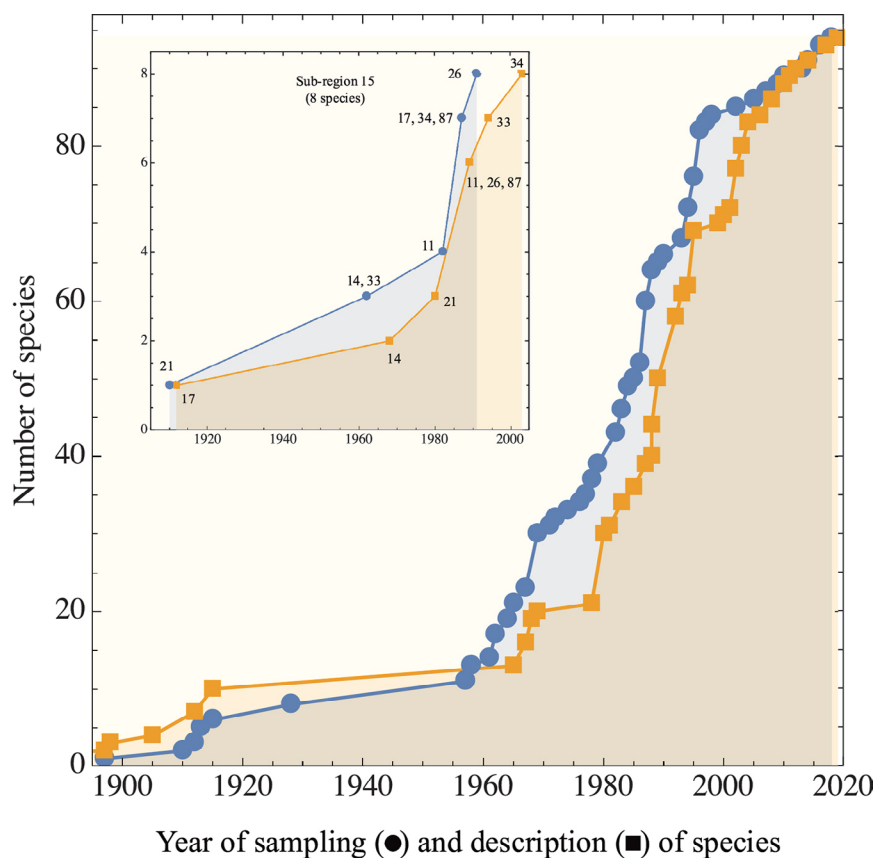


Figure 3. Accumulation curves showing the rates of increase in the number of new species of freshwater crabs in Colombia according to the year in which they were first recorded (circles and species code) and based on the year in which they were described in the literature (squares and species code). The inset refers to the sub-region San Juan river in the Western cordillera (15, CocSJ) in which 8 species coexist.

marked with symbol Δ . The 6,263 specimens recorded in the database are distributed among the 94 species as indicated in the last column of [Tab. 2](#). The numbers of specimens corresponding to endemic and non-endemic species are 6,093 and 170, respectively.

Species richness

If a sub-region contains a certain number of species (N), we refer to it as a sub-region of species richness N , expression for which we use the acronym “SR- N ”. The classification of the sub-regions is shown in [Fig. 4](#).

SR-8 sub-regions — Among the 75 natural sub-regions considered, San Juan river in the Western cordillera (15, CocSJ) is the sub-region with the highest number of species, and it is represented in the database by 305 specimens belonging to eight species. Note that these species are not exclusive to this sub-region because there are 830 records in the

database, which are distributed as shown in [Tab. 2](#). *Hypolobocera rotundilobata* (33) and *Strengeriana risaraldensis* (87) are endemic to the San Juan river (15, CocSJ), while the other seven species (Sp) are also present in other sub-regions, namely: *Hypolobocera alata* (11), (9, CbioSJ), (15, CocSJ); *Hypolobocera beieri* (14), (14, CocCau), (15, CocSJ), (16, CocPac) and (34, CcePat); *Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola* (17), (4, CaribeCau), (13, CocAt), (14, CocCau), (15, CocSJ), (17, CceNare), (18, CceMed), (20, CceMiel), (21, CceCau), (25, CceMa), (32, CceAmo); *H. chocoensis* (21), (7, CbioAt), (8, CbioBau), (9, CbioSJ); *Hypolobocera llorensensis* (26), (7, CbioAt), (9, CbioSJ), (10, CbioPac), and *H. velezi* (34), (13, CocAt), (15, CocSJ). Based on the aforementioned list and on the map ([Fig. 1](#)), we established that the subspecies *H. bouvieri monticola* (17) occurred in ten sub-regions, having then the widest geographic distribution in Colombia ([Fig. 2](#)).

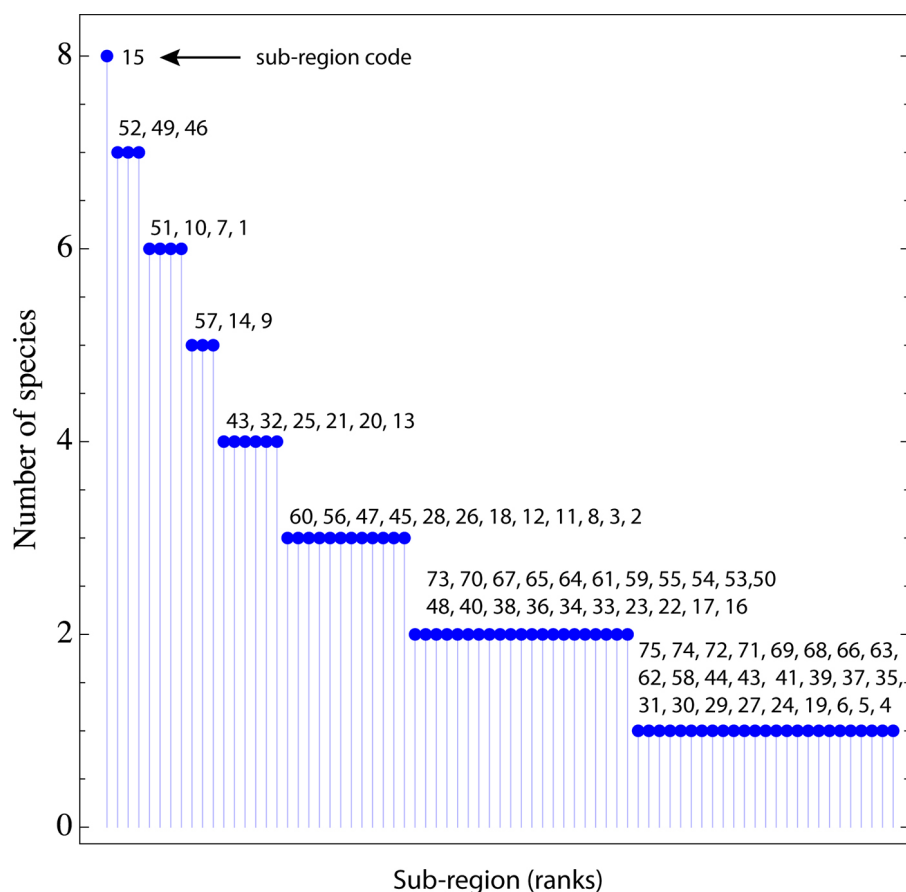


Figure 4. Natural sub-regions ranked in terms of species richness.

SR-7 sub-regions — Seven species were recorded in the three sub-regions: Minero river (46, CorMin), Negro river 1 (49, CorNeg1) and Bogotá river (52, CorBog), all located in the Eastern cordillera, and the rivers are tributaries of the Magdalena river. The basic information on these sub-regions is shown in Tab. 2.

Neostrengeria lemaitrei (55) and *N. fernandesi* (92) are restricted to the sub-region (46, CorMin). The three SR-7 sub-regions have the following in common: *H. bouvieri bouvieri* (16), *Neostrengeria botti* (48) and *N. gilberti* (52); sub-regions (46, CorMin) and (49, CorNeg1) share the species *Neostrengeria aspera* (45) and *Phallangothelphusa magdalenensis* (72), while the (49, CorNeg1) and (52, CorBog) sub-regions share the species *Neostrengeria lindigiana* (56) and *Phallangothelphusa dispar* (70). *Neostrengeria gilberti* (52) is an endemic species restricted to the SR-7 sub-regions, and *Neostrengeria macropa* (59) is endemic to (52, CorBog).

SR-6 sub-regions — There are four sub-regions involved, namely: Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (1,

Ssm), Chocó Biogeographic, Atrato river (7, CbioAt), Chocó Biogeographic, Pacific (10, CbioPac), and Eastern cordillera, Magdalena river (51, CorMa).

The Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta (1, Ssm) is an isolated mountain range located about 42 kilometers from the Caribbean coast; it is separated from the Andean Chain, and reaches an elevation of 5,700 m. This mountain range has a large number of eco-regions associated with its altitude. With the exception of *Hypolobocera bouvieri angulata* (15), all the species present in the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta are endemic to that region, namely: *Chaceus davidi* (4), *Chaceus nasutus* (6), *Chaceus pearsei* (7), *Martiana clausa* (39) and *Strengeriana taironae* (88).

Although the Chocó Biogeographic, Atrato river (7, CbioAt) and the Chocó Biogeographic, Pacific (10, CbioPac) sub-regions are located in the Pacific region, they do not share any species. Based on the current records in (10, CbioPac) there are three endemic species: *Hypolobocera murindensis* (30), *Hypolobocera malaguena* (27), and *Hypolobocera*

mutisi (31), whereas in (7, CbioAt) there are only two endemic species: *Colombiathelphusa culmarcuata* (1) and *H. murindensis* (30).

The Magdalena river is historically the most important in Colombia (Galvis and Mojica, 2007), beginning its course in San Agustín, Huila Department, to the southwest of Colombia in the Andes mountain range, along the central axis of the Colombian massif. The river crosses the country through the west from south to north, in a distance about 1,540 km between the Eastern and Central cordilleras of the Colombian Andes, forming a valley (extension 200,000 km²) that arrives at the coast of the Caribbean Sea. In this study, the sub-regions (51, CorMa) and (38, MmeMa) are associated with the upper and middle parts of the Magdalena river. The species *Neostrengeria lasoi* (93) and the subspecies *Hypolobocera bouvieri estenolobata* (18) are endemics to the sub-region (51, CorMa).

SR-5 sub-regions — There are three sub-regions involved, namely: Eastern cordillera, Sumapaz river (57, CorSum), Western cordillera, Cauca river (14, CocCau) and Chocó Biogeographic, San Juan river (9, CbioSJ). The first two sub-regions are in the Andean region, whereas the last one is in the Pacific region. The Sumapaz and Cauca rivers are tributaries of the Magdalena river, whereas the San Juan river flows into the Pacific Ocean; the Cauca river is considered the second most important in Colombia. These sub-regions do not share any species with each other, but their species are present in other sub-regions, except *Hypolobocera dentata* (22) in (14, CorCau); *Hypolobocera andagoensis* (12) and *H. chocoensis* (21) in (9, CbioSJ), which are exclusive to these regions.

SR-4 sub-regions — In this case, we find six sub-regions: on one side, the Eastern cordillera, Lebrija river (43, CorLebr) and Western cordillera, Atrato river (13, CocAtr) and on the other side, the Amoyá river (32, CceAmo), Magdalena river (25, CceMa), Cauca river (21, CceCau) and Miel river (20, CceMiel) all located in the Central cordillera. Regarding the SR-4 sub-regions it is important to mention: (i) *Hypolobocera bouvieri monticola* (17) is not recorded for (43, CorLebr), but it is shared by the other five sub-regions. (ii) *Phallangothelphusa dispar* (70) occurs in sub-regions (32, CceAmo), (25, CceMa) and (20, CceMiel). (iii) *Neostrengeria tonensis*

(66) and *Phallangothelphusa martensis* (73) are only recorded for (43, CorLebr); similarly, *Strengeriana fuhrmanni* (83) and *Strengeriana bolivarensis* (76) are restricted to (43, CorLebr). (iv) The following species are restricted to one sub-region, namely: *Strengeriana chaparralensis* (79) to (32, CceAmo), *Strengeriana florenciae* (81) to (20, CceMiel), and *Hypolobocera emberarum* (23) to (13, CocAt).

SR-3 sub-regions — In this case there are 12 sub-regions: Negro river 2 (56, CorNeg2), Suárez river (47, CorSua) and Opón river (45, CorOpon) belong to the Eastern cordillera, whereas Azufrado river (28, CceAzu), Coello river (26, CceCoe) and Medellín river (18, CceMed) are located in the Central cordillera. The sub-regions Telembí river (12, CbioTel), Patía river (11, CbioPat) and Baudó river (8, CbioBau) are situated in the Biogeographic Chocó, whereas the Sinú river (3, CaribbeanSi) and Cesar river (2, CaribbeanCes) correspond to the Caribbean region, and Cusiana river (60, OriCus) is located in the Orinoquian region.

Among the SR-3 subregions we found a high degree of endemism, namely: (i) *Chaceus cesarensis* (2), *Ch. curumanensis* (3) and *Chaceus ibiricensis* (5) are endemic to (2, CaribeCes). (ii) *Strengeriana casallasi* (78) and *Strengeriana villaensis* (90) are restricted to (28, CceAzu). (iii) *Neostrengeria sketi* (64) and *Phallangothelphusa tangerina* (94) are endemic to (45, CorOpon). (iv) *Lindacatalina sinuensis* (37), *Moritschus narinnensis* (42) and *Strengeriana antioquiensis* (75) are endemic only to (3, CaribeSi), (12, CbioTel) and (18, CceMed), respectively. (v) The sub-regions (47, CorSua), (45, CorOpon), (18, CceMed) have in common *H. bouvieri bouvieri* (16), whereas (28, CceAzu) and (26, CceCoe) share the species *Strengeriana cajaensis* (77).

SR-2 sub-regions — In the 21 sub-regions we identify the following particularities: (i) we found species with restricted distribution, namely: *Hypolobocera kamsarum* (25) and *Lindacatalina latipenis* (35) to (70, CorCa), *Neostrengeria appressa* (44) and *Orthothelphusa holthuisi* (67) to (40, CorTach), *Fredius granulatus* (10) to (73, AmazoApa), *Neostrengeria natashae* (61) to (67, OriAca), *Neostrengeria alexae* (43) to (65, OriHum), *Neostrengeria perijaensis* (63) to (36, CorTuc), *Strengeriana foresti* (82) to (23, CceGuar), and *Phallangothelphusa juansei* (71) to

(17, CceNare). (ii) At least two or more subregions share one species, specifically: (65, OriHum), (64, CorGuat), (61, OriTua), (55, CorGua) and (53, CorBat), *Neostrengeria bataensis* (46); (55, CorGua), (54, CorGar) and (53, CorBat), *Neostrengeria lasallei* (54); (67, OriAca) and (64, CorGuat), *Neostrengeria guenterii* (53); (54, CorGar) and (50, CorChi), *Neostrengeria boyacensis* (49); (61, OriTua) and (59, OriCra), *Eudaniela casanarensis* (9); (38, MmeMa) and (36, CorTuc), *H. bouvieri angulata* (15); (34, CcePat) and (16, CocPac), *H. beieri* (14); (34, CcePat) and (33, CcePaez), *Lindacatalina orientalis* (36); (23, CceGua) and (22, CceGual), *Strengeriana maniformis* (85).

Species diversity index

The biodiversity index $B_1(S, r)$ was calculated for the 75 sub-regions considered in this study, where $S \rightarrow S_n$ and $r \rightarrow r_n$ are the number of species and the radius associated with the n -th sub-region, and the index n runs on all sub-regions ($n = 1, 2, \dots, 75$). The values of $\alpha_1(S)$ required for the calculation of the index $B_1(S, r)$ are given by 0.63662, 0.75, 0.848826, 0.9375, 1.01859, 1.09375, 1.1641, 1.23047, 3.89865, which correspond to the number of species $S = 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8$, and 94, respectively.

In Fig. 5, we make use of the biodiversity plane in which x -axis is the radius $r = \sqrt{D}$ and y -axis is the biodiversity index $B_1(S, r)$. The solid curves represent the function $\alpha(S)/r$, where the value of the constant $\alpha(S)$ is determined by the number S of species (iso-species curve or S -curve). In this way, points of the biodiversity index for two or more sub-regions that have the same species richness S , are located exactly on the same S -curve. While the representative points remain on the same S -curve, their positions on the r -axis may differ if the species have different abundance distributions. In Fig. 5, the lowest point on the right hand-side represents the 25 sub-regions of species diversity one (SR-1).

Based on the values of the $B_1(S, r)$ index (Fig. 5) and the ranges proposed in Tab. 3, the sub-regions were classified according to the degree of diversity.

Some additional comments are relevant with respect to Tab. 3: (i) The six High biodiversity (Hb) sub-regions (52, CorBog), (49, CorNeg1) and (7, CbioAt) belong to the SR-7 sub-regions while (10, CbioPac), (51, CorMa) and (46, CorMin) are of the

SR-6 sub-regions (Fig. 4). In Fig. 5 they are represented in the high biodiversity area by three points on the curve $S = 7$ and three points on the curve $S = 6$, respectively. (ii) The five Medium biodiversity (Meb) sub-regions (15, CocSJ), (1, Ssm), (57, CorSum), (20, CceMiel) and (13, CocAt), are respectively of SR-8, SR-6, SR-5 sub-regions, whereas the last two are SR-4. (iii) Moderate biodiversity (Mob) sub-regions 9 and 14 are characterized by the presence of 5 species in each of them, unlike the other sub-regions belonging to this class that only recorded 4, 3 or 2 species. (iv) Similarly, sub-regions with low biodiversity (Lob) record two species, except the sub-region (8, CbioBau) that presents 3 species. (v) The 25 Scarce biodiversity (Scb) SR-1 sub-regions are characterized by having a biodiversity index with a common value of approximately 0.637.

Finally, the following results on freshwater crabs of the family Pseudothelphusidae in Colombia are also relevant: (i) in relation to the 75 natural sub-regions used in this study, there are 25 sub-regions in which the pseudothelphusid diversity is low, because a single species occurs in each one, and for five of these species only the holotype is known: *H. malaguena*

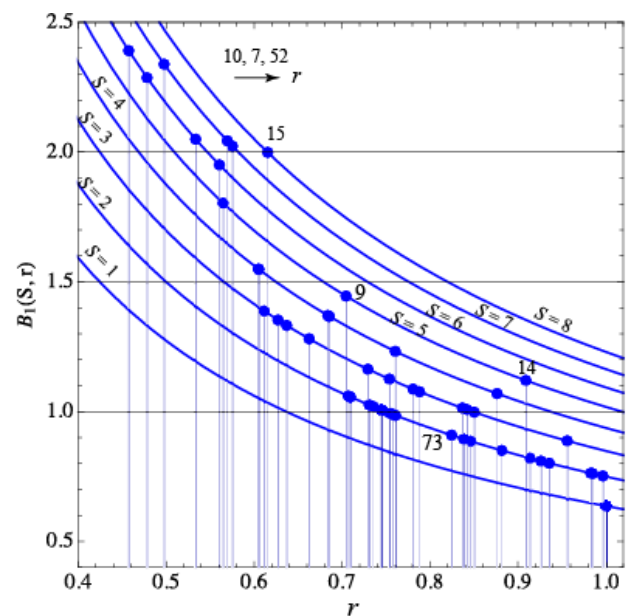


Figure 5. Comparison of natural sub-regions defined in Table 1 in terms of the biodiversity index $B_1(S, r)$ as a function of radius $r = \sqrt{D}$, where D is the Simpson index. The numbers in the vertical lines identify some sub-regions (15, 9, 14, 73); the representative points of them are located on iso-species curves (S -curves), according to the S number of species present in the sub-region.

Table 3. Classification of the natural sub-regions from Colombia, on a scale of levels, according to the value of the $B_1(S, r)$ biodiversity index. The sub-regions are identified by their codes and are listed in order of decreasing biodiversity.

Degree	Descriptor	Range of $B_1(S, r)$	Sub-regions
Hb	High biodiversity	$2 < B_1(S, r) \leq 2.5$	10, 52, 7, 51, 49, 46
Meb	Median biodiversity	$1.5 < B_1(S, r) \leq 2$	15, 1, 57, 20, 13
Mob	Moderate biodiversity	$1 < B_1(S, r) \leq 1.5$	9, 12, 43, 32, 60, 45, 11, 21, 56, 47, 14, 28, 18, 25, 23, 36, 55, 70, 26, 3, 54, 33, 22, 17
Lob	Low biodiversity	$0.75 < B_1(S, r) \leq 1$	8, 16, 65, 34, 73, 40, 2, 48, 50, 61, 67, 59, 53, 38, 64
Scb	Scarce biodiversity	$0 < B_1(S, r) \leq 0.75$	75, 74, 72, 71, 69, 68, 66, 63, 62, 58, 44, 42, 41, 39, 37, 35, 31, 30, 29, 27, 24, 19, 6, 5, 4

(27), *Neostrengeria macarenae* (58), *Potamocarcinus colombiensis* (68), *S. foresti* (82) and *Neostrengeria libradensis* (91). (ii) There are also 15 sub-regions with low biodiversity: in 14 sub-regions there are only two species, but they are represented in the database by a large number of specimens.

DISCUSSION

In this study concerning the species of the family Pseudothelphusidae in Colombia, we began by asking about the possibility of obtaining useful information from the natural history collections existing in museums and research institutions.

A few studies using databases of natural history collections to assess the regional diversity of freshwater crabs have been carried in Mexico on the basis of data maintained by the Colección Nacional de Crustáceos (CNCR), Instituto de Biología, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México. Álvarez *et al.* (1999) presented a list of 335 species of decapod crustaceans from Veracruz (marine, estuary and freshwater), and found that freshwater decapods represent 28% of the total number of species registered for Mexico, of which 11 are pseudothelphusid species. Álvarez *et al.* (2005) provide an annotated list of crustaceans in the continental water bodies of the Mexican state of Tabasco and found that out of 72 recorded species 25 correspond to freshwater decapods and only four belong to the family Pseudothelphusidae. Using information from the CNCR and the Museo de Zoología, Universidad de Ciencias y Artes de Chiapas in Tuxtla Gutiérrez, Chiapas, Álvarez *et al.* (2011) presented a taxonomic treatment of the 80 species of

freshwater and land crustaceans that are distributed in Chiapas. In this Mexican state there are three of the five tribes that constitute the family Pseudothelphusidae: Hypolobocerini (2 spp.), Potamocarcinini (11 spp.), and Pseudothelphusini (1 sp.). Álvarez *et al.* (2014), through an exhaustive compilation of the decapod crustacean records from Mexico, built a species list for the continental, Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico and Pacific regions that includes a total of 1,775 species. They also considered that, based on projections proposed by other authors, it is estimated that only half of the species of decapods that occur in Mexico were then known.

In the present study we find that: (i) Four tribes have been described for Colombia; Hypolobocerini (60 spp.) is distributed in the five natural regions of Continental Colombia and Gorgona Island; Kingsleyini (4 spp.) occurs in the Andean, Orinoquian and Amazonian regions; Potamocarcinini (2 spp.) has been recorded from Caribbean and Pacific regions, and Strengerianini (28 spp.) has been found in the Caribbean and Andean regions. (ii) The distribution of these tribes is not homogeneous and, within the set of 75 sub-regions, they are represented in 58, 9, 4 and 28 sub-regions, respectively, a fact that is explained by the biogeographical and ecological conditions of the country, and the specific environmental conditions that species require to survive. (iii) In the Western cordillera, San Juan river (15, CocSJ), the sub-region in which the largest number of species was recorded, there are seven Hypolobocerini species and only one Strengerianini. (iv) In sub-regions Cravo Sur river, (59, OriCra), Cusina river (60, OriCus) and Túa river (61, OriTua), located in the Orinoquian natural

region, the tribes Kingsleyini and Hypolobocerini coexist, whereas for the sub-regions Guaviare river (72, AmazoGua), Apaporis river (73, AmazoApa) and Caquetá river (74, AmazoCa) of the Amazonian natural region, only species of Kingsleyini are recorded. (v) In the Pacific natural region, the tribes Potamocarcinini and Hypolobocerini coexist in three sub-regions, Sinú river (3, CaribeSi) of the Caribbean natural region, Atrato river (7, CbioAt) and Baudó river (8, CbioBau) of the Chocó Biogeographic, whereas in subregions León river (5, CbioLeo) and Juradó river (6, CbioJu) of the Chocó Biogeographic, the known records are only for Potamocarcinini. (vi) Comparing the previous facts with the information corresponding to Chiapas (Álvarez *et al.*, 2011), it is evident that in the Mexican region there are very diverse biogeographic and ecological conditions that allow the coexistence of three tribes, inasmuch as its area is only 3.8% of Mexico or 6.5% of Colombia (continental areas).

Based on the faunistic and taxonomic studies by Magalhães (1990; 2005; 2009; 2017), Magalhães and Pereira (2007), Magalhães and Türkay (2010), Pedraza *et al.* (2016), Pedraza and Tavares (2015), Pereira *et al.* (2009; 2010), Suárez (2015), Magalhães *et al.* (2014; 2018), and Zanetti *et al.* (2018), one can count the number of pseudothelphusid species occurring in the Orinoco and Brazilian Amazon basins. Cross-referencing our data with the number of species obtained from those studies, we can notice that (i) the Negro river, the largest northern tributary of the Amazon river in Brazil, which also includes the Branco river drainage, has thirteen species distributed in four genera: *Fredius* (8 spp.), *Kingsleya* (2 spp.), *Microthelphusa* (2 spp.), and *Prionoithelphusa* (1 sp.); (ii) twenty-one species (with two subspecies) in eight genera are recorded from the Orinoco basin: *Microthelphusa* (7 spp.), *Fredius* (7 spp. + 2 spp.), *Eudaniela*, *Kingsleya*, *Oedothelphusa*, *Orthothelphusa*, *Prionoithelphusa*, and *Rodriguezus* (1 sp. each); (iii) five species are known from the Xingu river: four of *Kingsleya* and one of “*Microthelphusa*”; (iv) eight species of four genera (*Kingsleya*, 3 spp.; *Fredius*, 2 spp.; *Melothelphusa*, 2 spp.; *Brasiliothelphusa*, 1 sp.), additionally occur in other tributaries of the Amazon river (Magalhães, 1986; 2005; 2009; 2017; Magalhães and Türkay, 2010; Magalhães *et al.*, 2014;

Pedraza and Tavares, 2015; Pedraza *et al.*, 2016). On the other hand, in the sub-regions (72) AmazoGua, (73) AmazoApa and (74) AmazoCa considered in this study for the Colombian Amazon region, there are only two species recorded: (a) *Prionoithelphusa eliasi* occurs in Colombia, but also in Venezuela and Brazil, in tributaries of the Amazon and Orinoco basins, and (b) *Fredius granulatus* is only recorded for Colombia, in Mirití-Paraná river, which is a tributary of the Amazon river. Regarding the Colombian Orinoquian region, eight sub-regions were established, which are characterized by being tributaries of the Meta river and which flows into the Orinoco river: (58) OriPau, (59) OriCra, (60) OriCus, (61) OriTua, (65) OriHum, (66) OriAri, (67) OriAca and (68) OriGue. Seven species are recorded, six of the genus *Neostrengeria* and one of *Eudaniela*. It is notable that *E. casanarensis* has a distribution that extends to 4 sub-regions (58 to 61) while *N. bataensis* occurs in three sub-regions (60, 61, 65). Recently an unidentified female of the genus *Kingsleya* was collected in Puerto Carreño, Vichada, on the Orinoco river, which is important insofar as it constitutes the first record of this genus for Colombia. In short, 21 (with 2 subspecies) and 8 pseudothelphusid species have been recorded from the Venezuelan and Colombian portions of the Orinoco basin, respectively. The Amazon basin in Brazil has 21 recorded species, but only two in the Colombian Amazon region. According to this data, the basins of the three countries differ in species richness, which can be explained by insufficient sampling/uneven collecting efforts or by diverse ecological conditions/geological history, or by both.

In the light of the Colombian natural sub-regions considered in this work, the Andean region (51 sub-regions), ranks first regarding the pseudothelphusid species richness, with 53 species (56.4%) recorded out of the 94 species identified for Continental Colombia and Gorgona Island, seconded by the Pacific region (8 sub-regions) with 19 species (20.2%). These regions are followed by the Caribbean region (4 subregions) with 13 species (13.8%), the Orinoquian region (8 subregions) with 7 species (7.5%), and the Amazon region (4 sub-regions) with 2 species (2.1%). Mountain regions are unusually biodiverse, with numerous aggregations of narrow-ranged species that form centers of endemism, especially in the tropics (Rahbek

et al., 2019). This is the case for the Colombian Andean region, that, with its Western, Central and Eastern mountain ranges, forms a topographically complex natural region, with diverse and distinct mountainous environments, which could account for the highest species richness of the Andean region verified in the present study. This fact is also consistent with the statement by Rodríguez (1982) that the pseudothelphusids are predominantly a montane group, with many of their species having narrow-range distributions and that could be explained by the high degree of speciation resulting from geographical isolation in several sub-basins in the Andean mountainous regions.

The present analysis covers a wide period (1853 to 2019) of collecting samples of the Colombian pseudothelphusids. The natural environmental conditions were not stable during that period due to natural events or anthropogenic activities such as deforestation, mining, agriculture, pollution, and so on. Therefore, the obtained results do not describe the current state of pseudothelphusid populations for Colombia. As aforementioned, the average number of specimens captured in each sub-region was used for the analyses. Notwithstanding, for future studies it is pertinent to reduce bias of new information by collecting data using a more appropriate methodology that would permit rapid surveys to evaluate biotic complementarity as well as promote long-term ecological studies such as the RAPELD method (Magnusson *et al.*, 2005).

The curves of species accumulation depicted in Fig. 3 clearly shows that they have not reached their respective asymptotes, which suggests that more comprehensive biological surveys are needed as there may be yet undiscovered species of freshwater crabs in Colombia.

Regarding the 75 selected sub-regions, one can observe that: (i) Twenty five of the 94 species have very restricted distributions, being found in only one of the sub-regions. This is the case, for instance, of *Ch. davidi* (4), which only occurs in (1, Ssm). (ii) There are species widely distributed as they share several sub-regions, for example: *H. bouvieri monticola* (17) is recorded in ten sub-regions: (4, CaribeCau), (13, CocAt), (14, CocCau), (15, CocSJ), (17, CceNare), (18, CceMed), (20, CceMiel), (21, CceCau), (25, CceMa), (32,

CceAmo), having the widest geographic distribution in Colombia; and *N. bataensis* (46) is presented in 5 sub-regions: (65, OriHum), (64, CorGuat), (61, OriTua), (55, CorGua) and (53, CorBat). (iii) Some species converge in the same sub-region, as occurs with 8 species in (15, CocSJ). Thus, regarding species with very restricted distributions, the selection of the 75 sub-regions has been an appropriate instrument, since it implies the importance of conducting further studies on the particular environments in which these species inhabit.

The 94 species of the family Pseudothelphusidae are represented in the database with a varied number of specimens. This is explained by the environmental conditions of their habitat, and by the number and intensity of the sampling in the distributional range of the species. This methodological bias indicates that sampling efforts should be increased for those species represented in the database by a low number of specimens. As special cases, two species described by Rodríguez (1980), *N. libradensis* (91) and *S. foresti* (83), are based on single specimens and, despite explorations in localities near the type locality, have not had any additional material collected. A similar situation occurs with *N. macarenae* (58), collected in the sub-region Orinoquian, Güejar river (68, OriGue), for which the only specimen known is the holotype. Despite exploration performed in the type locality, it has not been possible to find additional specimens.

According to Cumberlidge (2016), there are approximately 6,800 known species of brachyuran crabs, about 1,400 (20.6%) have been reported from freshwater habitats, and 271 of them are known species of freshwater crabs of the Neotropical family Pseudothelphusidae. Thus, of 94 existing species in Colombia, 86 are endemic and they correspond to 31.7% of the total pseudothelphusid species. Therefore, the conservation of their environment is a priority for the preservation of the species diversity of the family, responsibility that should be shared by the scientific community, Colombian environmental governmental and non-governmental organizations, and the people as a whole.

It should be noted that the index of diversity of species $B_1(S, r)$ allows for a quantitative classification of the sub-regions, since it depends not only on the number of species but also on their

abundance distributions. Again, appropriate sampling and additional studies are required to improve the reliability in the classification, based on the index and a scale of values such as the one in Tab. 3.

The high diversity of freshwater crab species in Colombia may be explained by the heterogeneity of existing natural environments in the continental country and on Gorgona Island, which led to the 75 natural sub-regions considered in this study. The analysis carried out in each one of the sub-regions in relation to their number of species constitutes a baseline for subsequent investigations that tend to consolidate the information on the actual number of species. The results here obtained are useful for designing new research proposals on conservation and environmental impact studies concerning the family Pseudothelphusidae, in particular for sub-regions in which only one species is recorded.

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