

Project Update: May 2011

Two seasons' macro-invertebrate surveys have now been completed at 21 sites across four watersheds. Approximately 45,500 taxa have been collected including taxa not previously recorded in Belize, and rarely in the wider region. The caddisfly *Plectromacronema* sp. for example, has been confirmed as present in two river systems. Specimens have been deposited locally, with the Universidad de Costa Rica and the Freshwater Biological Association, UK. Analysis is now under way to explore macro-invertebrate community response to season and anthropogenic impact.

Local members of the survey team have formed a project group and will collect data to further explore seasonality at a subset of sites over the coming year. One member has recently used his field skills to assist university students during a field methods module.

The project has been working with a village watershed group to explore local knowledge and use of the river with the aim to facilitate more meaningful river monitoring and assessment in the future.



Plectromacronema sp. collected from the Golden Stream. The three known species of this Hydropsychidae have previously been recorded in Mexico and Costa Rica (*Plectromacronema lisae* (Flint, 1983)), Argentina (*Plectromacronema subfuscum* (Banks, 1920)) and Brazil (*Plectromacronema comptum* (Ulmer, 1906)). © Mike Dobson.