

## MICRODISTRIBUTIONAL VARIABILITY OF LARVAL CADDISFLIES IN MEDITERRANEAN-CLIMATE STREAMS IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

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**ABSTRACT.**—Knowing how physical and biogenic habitat characteristics affect microspatial variability of larval caddisflies is important to understanding potential population distributions and local species assemblages. We show that larval caddisfly densities and assemblages vary between study reaches and streams on the Angelo Coast Range Reserve in northern California and that species abundance patterns are associated with specific habitat variables. *Dicosmoecus gilvipes* and *Psychoglypha* spp. were most dense in 4th-order reaches of the south fork of the Eel River (SFE) and rare or absent in shallow 2nd- and 1st-order reaches of the Elder and Fox Creek tributaries, respectively. Multidimensional scaling (MDS) suggested *D. gilvipes* densities were associated with water depth, as microdistributions were restricted to depths >40 cm. Microdistributions were also associated with *Rivularia*-dominated algal patches, but it is doubtful grazing *D. gilvipes* tracked these cyanobacteria. *Psychoglypha* spp. were typically found between roughness elements (stones) in relatively deep waters, and MDS suggested that densities of *Psychoglypha* spp. were related to current velocity. *Lepidostoma* sp. was densest in Fox Creek, and densities of this detritivore were associated with benthic organic matter (BOM). *Glossosoma* spp. densities were similar among streams (~25 larvae · m<sup>-2</sup>) and did not configure around any of the habitat variables used in MDS. *Neophylax* (likely *rickeri*), *Heteroplectron*, *Ecclisomyia*, and *Hydatophylax hesperus* were uncommon and found only in either Elder or Fox creeks. Our work shows that larval caddisfly assemblages are more diverse in SFE tributaries than in the mainstem and that species traits and microdistributions are related to local-scale habitat variables in these Mediterranean-climate streams.

**RESUMEN.**—Es importante conocer de qué manera las características del hábitat físico y biogénico afectan la variabilidad microespacial de la larva de las frigáneas para comprender la posible distribución local y cómo están compuestos los grupos de especies locales. Demostramos que las densidades y los grupos de las larvas de las frigáneas varían entre los fragmentos del arroyo y entre los arroyos que se encuentran en Angelo Coast Range Reserve en el norte de California y que los patrones de abundancia de las especies se asocian con variables específicas del hábitat. Las especies *Dicosmoecus gilvipes* y *Psychoglypha* registraron una mayor densidad en las extensiones del 4° orden de *South Fork* del *Eel River* (SFE) y su densidad disminuyó o se extinguió en las extensiones de menor profundidad del 2° y del 1° orden de sus afluentes, los arroyos *Elder* y *Fox* respectivamente. El escalamiento multidimensional (EMD) sugirió que la densidad de *D. gilvipes* se asoció con la profundidad del agua, ya que la microdistribución se limitó a profundidades >40 cm. La microdistribución también se asoció a zonas con predominancia de algas de *Rivularia*, pero no es seguro que *D. gilvipes* haya rastreado estas cianobacterias. La especie *Psychoglypha* se encontró típicamente entre elementos ásperos (piedras) en aguas relativamente profundas y el EMD sugirió que su densidad se relacionaba con la velocidad de la corriente. La especie *Lepidostoma* fue la más densa en el arroyo *Fox* y la densidad de este detritívoro se asoció con la materia orgánica bentónica (BOM). La densidad de la especie *Glossosoma* fue similar entre los arroyos (~25 larvas · m<sup>-2</sup>) y no determinó ninguna de las variables del hábitat utilizadas en el EMD. *Neophylax* (probablemente *rickeri*), *Heteroplectron*, *Ecclisomyia* y *Hydatophylax hesperus* fueron poco comunes y sólo se encontraron en el arroyo *Elder* o en el *Fox*. Nuestra investigación demuestra que los grupos de larvas de las frigáneas son más diversos en los afluentes del SFE que en la corriente principal, y que las características y la microdistribución de las especies se relacionan con variables del hábitat a escala local en estos arroyos de clima mediterráneo.

Physical and biogenic habitat characteristics interact to affect microdistributonal variability and phenotypic composition of larval stream caddisfly assemblages. For example, species residing in slow-flowing areas where fine sediments (sand grains) or benthic organic

matter (BOM: leaves, twigs, detritus) accumulate often build cases from these materials (Eggert and Wallace 2003) in high-flow intolerant shapes (e.g., *Heteroplectron*—Anderson et al. 1984). In contrast, species residing in fast-flowing areas with coarse, stable substrates

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(logs, boulders) often build cases with heavier materials (e.g., fine gravel) in hydraulically smooth shapes (e.g., glossosomatids—Patrick 1988) or have special substrate-adhering mechanisms (e.g., tethering silk lines [*Pycnocentroides*—Holomuzki and Biggs 2000]; case lateral extensions [*Dicosmoecus* 1st–4th instars—Limm and Power 2011]). Moreover, larvae that feed by shredding detrital matter ( $>2$  mm diameter) often inhabit BOM patches (e.g., limnephilids—Cummins et al. 1989), whereas larvae that feed by filtering fine, detrital particles ( $\leq 2$  mm dia.) carried in the current inhabit fast flows and spin food-capturing nets (e.g., hydropsychids—Fairchild and Holomuzki 2002). Larval feeding mode can even influence ecosystem processes. Sometimes detritivores can drive decomposition processes (Whiles et al. 1993, Ruesink and Srivastava 2001), and herbivores that scrape periphyton or clip filamentous algae can limit algal biomass and production (Feminella and Hawkins 1995, McNeely et al. 2007). So connecting microhabitat structure, microdistributions, and species traits of larval caddisflies can potentially produce fundamental insights into local population dynamics, trophodynamics, and stream ecosystem function.

We studied how microhabitat heterogeneity was linked to reach-scale spatial variability of caddisfly larvae in the south fork of the Eel River (SFE) and 2 of its tributaries on the Angelo Coast Range Reserve ( $39^{\circ}43'45''$  N,  $123^{\circ}38'40''$  W) in Mendocino County, northern California. *Dicosmoecus gilvipes* (Hagen), a large-bodied (5th instars: 25–30 mm in length), case-building (1st–4th instars: mostly plant matter; 5th instar: fine gravel) limnephilid, and *Cladophora glomerata* (L.) (Kütz.), a filamentous green alga, are key grazers and primary producers, respectively, in mainstem channels of the Eel drainage network (Power et al. 2009). However, under the region's Mediterranean climate, both caddisfly and algal abundance is strongly influenced by winter-scour intensity. In mainstem channels, large *Cladophora* blooms occur in summer if winter spates are intense enough to mobilize much of the river bed and eliminate grazing *Dicosmoecus*. Summer blooms are checked by *Dicosmoecus* if winter floods are mild (Power et al. 2008), and epilithic, nitrogen-fixing *Epithemia* diatoms and *Rivularia* cyanobacteria codominate with *Cladophora* (Power et al. 2009).

*Dicosmoecus* also eats an array of diatoms (Jacoby 1987), but it is unknown if their microdistributions are related to algal type. Algal proliferations are spatially heterogeneous and dynamic over the Eel drainage basin (Power et al. 2009), and algal spatial variability could predict grazer spatial variability, if grazers are tracking specific resources. *Glossosoma penitum* (Banks), *G. califica* (Denning), and *Neophylax rickeri* (Milne) (Limnephilidae) are also relatively common algivores in the SFE drainage, and *Psychoglypha* spp. (Limnephilidae) is a common detritivore (Teague et al. 1985, McNeely et al. 2006, McNeely and Power 2007). However, it is unknown how larval caddisfly occurrence changes from mainstem channels to lower-order tributaries that experience milder winter floods. In this paper, we address the following questions: (1) How do species' traits and microdistributions relate to substrate attributes, microhydraulics, and potential food supply (algae or BOM) in a summer preceded by mild-winter floods? (2) How do larval caddisfly assemblages differ between the mainstem and its smaller-order tributaries?

## METHODS

### Study Sites

Larval caddisfly counts and microdistribution determinations were done in 4th-order reaches of the SFE (catchment area 148 km<sup>2</sup>) and in 2nd- and 1st-order reaches of its Elder Creek (catchment 17 km<sup>2</sup>) and Fox Creek (catchment 2 km<sup>2</sup>) tributaries, respectively (Fig. 1). Old-growth mixed hardwood-conifer forest dominated by Douglas-fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*) surrounded study reaches in these coarse-bedded streams (McNeely and Power 2007). Litter abundance was relatively high, even in summer, as evergreen and deciduous trees lose their leaves during the dry season (McNeely et al. 2007). Algal standing crops were low in both tributaries (Elder: 299 [SE 71]  $\times 10^3$  cells  $\cdot$  cm<sup>-2</sup>; Fox: 79 [SE 21]  $\times 10^3$  cells  $\cdot$  cm<sup>-2</sup>) relative to SFE (1254 [SE 278]  $\times 10^3$  cells  $\cdot$  cm<sup>-2</sup>; J.R. Welter and P.C. Furey unpublished data). Midday temperatures in July are cooler in Elder and Fox creeks (13–15 °C) than in SFE (14–18 °C).

### Larval Caddisfly Sampling

Larvae were counted in a 0.5  $\times$  0.5-m quadrat made of PVC pipe. The quadrat was

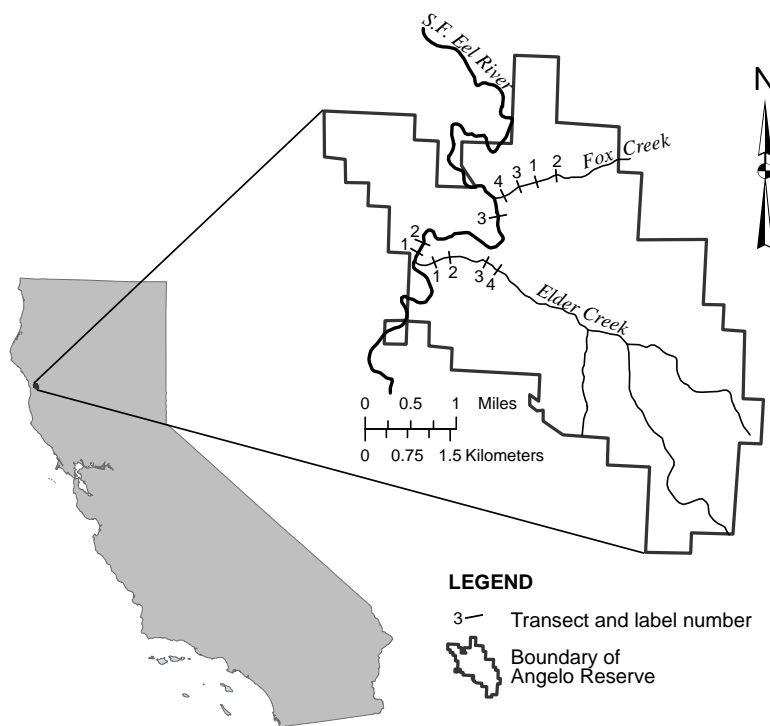


Fig. 1. Transects along sample reaches in the south fork of the Eel River, Elder Creek, and Fox Creek in the Angelo Range Coast Reserve in northern California.

placed at 1- or 2-m intervals along a transect stretching across, and perpendicular to, the channel. Two transects were sampled in SFE on 18 July and one on 20 July; 4 transects were sampled in Elder Creek on 19 July; and 4 transects were sampled on Fox Creek on 20 July 2011. Number of quadrat samples taken from each transect varied depending on reach width (SFE: 10.5–18.0 m; Elder: 5.5–6.5 m; Fox: 2.5–3.5 m). Specifically, 8, 5, and 7 quadrat samples were taken along transects (reaches) 1, 2, and 3 at SFE, respectively; 5, 6, 4, and 5 samples were taken on transects 1, 2, 3, and 4 at Elder Creek, respectively; and, 3 samples were taken on each transect at Fox Creek. Transect location was based largely on accessibility and wadeability and often spanned a variety of substrate types and sizes. Transects were spaced ~80–200 m apart within a stream (Fig. 1).

Caddisflies of each species or genus visible on upper surfaces or sides of substrates in quadrats were counted between ~09:30 and 16:30; stones were not overturned for counts. A view box was used in deeper areas to facilitate

detection of caddisflies. Caddisflies were collected and preserved in 80% ethanol only if field identifications could not be made. Counts of each species or genus in quadrats were averaged over the reach and expressed as larvae  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>.

#### Microhabitat Characterization

Immediately following the counts, percent composition of inorganic substrata was visually estimated in each quadrat. Substrata were distinguished by size following the Wentworth Scale (Gordon et al. 1992) and classed as bedrock, boulders, cobbles, pebbles, gravel, and sand/silt. Percent BOM (leaves, twigs, and coarse detritus [ $>2$  mm diameter]) cover atop inorganic substrata in quadrats was also estimated visually (Acuña et al. 2007). Current velocities were measured at each sampling quadrat using a Marsh McBirney® flowmeter placed 2 cm from the bottom. A mean was calculated for each variable to characterize microhabitat conditions along each reach.

A cobble (b axis: ~64–256 mm) was collected near or at the midpoint of each sample

quadrat to determine the dominant alga in the epilithon. The upper rock surface was scraped with a razor blade and rinsed with distilled water over a plastic tray. Algae were poured into a Whirl-pak<sup>®</sup> bag, taken to the lab for identification within ~3 h of collection, and viewed at 400X for ~15–20 min to determine the dominant taxon. Taxa comprising  $\geq 50\%$  of the biomass of a sample were considered dominant. Algae were identified to genus using Krammer and Lange-Bertalot (1986, 1988, 1991a, 1991b) and Patrick and Reimer (1966, 1975) as primary references.

#### Statistical Analyses

One-way ANOVAs were used to determine whether caddisfly densities, water depth, boulder abundance, and BOM cover differed among streams. Significant stream effects were followed by Bonferroni pairwise comparisons ( $\alpha = 0.05$ ). To meet the assumptions of ANOVA, caddisfly densities were  $\log_{10}[x + 1]$ -transformed, and boulder and BOM cover were arcsine-transformed. Multidimensional scaling (MDS; SYSTAT, version 13) was used to associate microhabitat variables with caddisfly densities. Quadrat samples were averaged along each transect for each variable, so transect was the unit of replication in analyses.  $G$  tests of independence ( $2 \times 2$  tables; Sokal and Rohlf 1995), adjusted by Williams's correction, determined whether the presence of a dominant alga was associated with presence of a common grazing caddisfly (i.e., *Dicosmoecus*, *Glossosoma*).

#### RESULTS

The 4 most common caddisflies found were *Dicosmoecus gilvipes*, *Psychoglypha* spp., *Lepidostoma* sp., and *Glossosoma penitum*. *Dicosmoecus* and *Psychoglypha* (*bella* and *leechi*) densities differed among study streams (ANOVA; *Dicosmoecus*:  $F_{2,8} = 5.198$ ,  $P = 0.036$ ; *Psychoglypha*:  $F_{2,8} = 6.040$ ,  $P = 0.025$ ). Both caddisflies were most dense in the SFE, rare in Elder Creek, and absent in Fox Creek (Table 1). Coincidentally, water depths varied among streams ( $F_{2,8} = 4.441$ ,  $P = 0.05$ ), with Fox Creek being the shallowest and SFE the deepest (Table 1; Bonferroni comparison: SFE  $\neq$  Fox Cr.,  $P < 0.05$ ). Indeed, MDS suggested that *D. gilvipes* densities were associated with water depth (Fig. 2), as microdistributions were

restricted to depths  $> 40$  cm (Fig. 3A). *Psychoglypha* spp. appeared to be associated with current velocity (Fig. 2) and were typically found between, or on downstream sides of, large stones. Only 5th instars were observed for both taxa.

In contrast, *Lepidostoma* sp. was present in all streams. However, *Lepidostoma* sp. was denser in Fox Creek than in SFE and Elder (ANOVA:  $F_{2,8} = 6.040$ ,  $P = 0.025$ ; Bonferroni comparisons: both  $P \leq 0.05$ ; Table 1). *Lepidostoma* sp. microdistributions appeared closely associated with BOM (Fig. 2), and BOM cover did not differ among streams ( $F_{2,8} = 2.012$ ,  $P = 0.196$ ; Table 1). *Glossosoma* spp. was present and equally dense in all 3 streams ( $F_{2,8} = 3.091$ ,  $P = 0.101$ ; Table 1). Neither water depth, current speed, boulder cover, nor BOM cover was associated with *Glossosoma* spp. density (Fig. 2).

Rarely found were *Neophylax*, *Heteroplectron*, *Ecclisomyia*, and *Hydatophylax hesperus* (Banks). None of these caddisflies were found at our SFE sites. *Ecclisomyia* was found only in Elder Creek ( $< 1$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>) and *H. hesperus* only in Fox Creek ( $< 2$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>). *Neophylax* was in both creeks (Elder:  $2 \pm 1$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>; Fox:  $3 \pm 2$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>).

Rankings of the predominant algae in the SFE were *Epithemia* (typically *E. turgida* [Ehrenb. Kütz.]  $>$  *Rivularia*  $>$  *Stigeoclonium* (Table 1). However, *Rivularia* was dominant only in deeper waters (range 35–83 cm, Fig. 3B), and *D. gilvipes* presence was associated with *Rivularia* presence in SFE ( $G_{\text{adj}} = 6.359$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P < 0.025$ ). *Stigeoclonium* and *Epithemia* were codominant at transect 3, the only sample site in SFE where *Glossosoma* spp. was relatively abundant (Table 1). However, *Glossosoma* spp. presence was not associated with either *Stigeoclonium* or *Epithemia* presence at the site (both algae:  $G_{\text{adj}} = 0.059$ ,  $df = 1$ ,  $P > 0.75$ ). The dominant algae in Elder Creek were the cyanophytes *Tolypothrix* and *Nostoc* (Table 1), which together comprised ~80% of the algal assemblage. In contrast, the diatom *Cocconeis* (typically *C. placentula* Ehrenb.) was by far ( $> 80\%$ ) the dominant alga in Fox Creek (Table 1). These very different assemblages in Elder and Fox Creeks, coupled with similar densities of *Glossosoma*, the only abundant grazer in these 2 streams, suggest that algal type and dominance played little role in affecting densities of this caddisfly.

TABLE 1. Caddisfly densities, dominant algae, and microhabitat conditions at surveyed reaches in study streams. Algal abbreviations are epithe, *Epithemia*; rivul, *Ritularia*; stigeo, *Stigeoclonium*; nost, *Nostoc*; tolypo, *Tolypotherix*; cocco, *Cocconeis*. Values are means with standard error in parentheses.  $n = 8, 5,$  and  $7$  quadrat samples in reaches 1, 2, and 3 at the south fork of the Eel River, respectively;  $n = 5, 6, 4,$  and  $5$  samples in reaches 1, 2, 3, and 4 at Elder Creek, respectively;  $n = 3$  samples in each reach at Fox Creek.

Reach	Microhabitat variables									
	Biotic variables					Microhabitat variables				
	Caddisfly density (larvae · m <sup>-2</sup> )									
	<i>Dicosmoecus</i>	<i>Psychoglypha</i>	<i>Lepidostoma</i>	<i>Glossosoma</i>	Dominant alga genus	Depth (cm)	Current (cm · sec <sup>-2</sup> )	Boulders (%)	BOM (%)	
SFE										
1	31 (20)	5 (2)	<1	<1	epithe, rivul	34 (8)	3.4 (1.3)	39 (11)	0	
2	22 (9)	2 (2)	3 (3)	1 (1)	rivul, epithet	54 (14)	1.2 (1.0)	46 (15)	1 (1)	
3	0	1 (1)	3 (3)	25 (17)	stigeo, epithet	20 (3)	8.4 (2.7)	49 (8)	<1	
Elder										
1	1 (1)	1 (1)	5 (3)	7 (3)	nost, tolypo	17 (2)	8.0 (2.8)	70 (13)	8 (4)	
2	0	0	1 (1)	5 (2)	tolypo	16 (3)	6.2 (2.6)	46 (13)	2 (1)	
3	0	0	1 (1)	7 (3)	nost	24 (3)	4.2 (2.0)	53 (11)	2 (1)	
4	1 (1)	0	0	15 (8)	tolypo	17 (3)	6.8 (3.4)	50 (10)	1 (1)	
Fox										
1	0	0	25 (12)	37 (20)	cocco, epithet	14 (3)	1.0 (0.6)	30 (6)	5 (1)	
2	0	0	21 (21)	88 (29)	cocco	10 (2)	5.0 (2.5)	22 (10)	4 (3)	
3	0	0	5 (3)	25 (14)	cocco	23 (9)	1.0 (1.0)	20 (12)	33 (12)	
4	0	0	11 (9)	16 (8)	cocco	16 (2)	2.0 (1.5)	33 (9)	9 (6)	

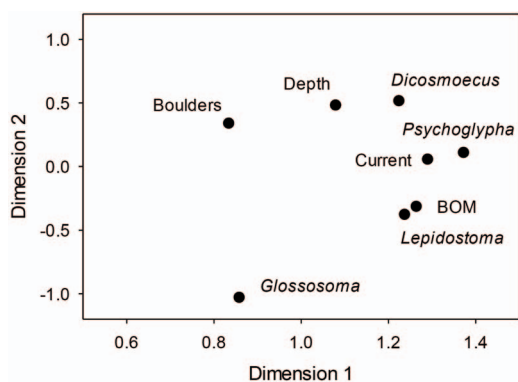


Fig. 2. MDS ordination of *Dicosmoecus*, *Psychoglypha*, *Lepidostoma*, and *Glossosoma* densities with habitat variables (stress = 0.026, RSQ = 0.914).

## DISCUSSION

*Dicosmoecus gilvipes* densities varied among streams and among reaches within streams. The species was most abundant in the 2 deeper reaches of SFE and absent to rare in shallow Elder and Fox creeks and in the shallowest SFE reach. *Dicosmoecus* densities were associated with water depth and *Rivularia*, which was frequently dominant in deep waters in SFE. We doubt that *Dicosmoecus* tracks *Rivularia*-dominated algal patches, given that this cyanobacteria produces cyanotoxic microcystins (Aboal et al. 2005), making it a poor food item. More likely, *Dicosmoecus* indirectly affects *Rivularia* microdistributions by grazing *Cladophora* and other epilithic algae, like diatoms. Grazers can facilitate the establishment of other algae, like *Rivularia*, by preventing substrate monopolization by filamentous green algae (Benedetti-Cecchi 2000). Further, we suspect that *Dicosmoecus* microdistributions, which were limited to depths >40 cm in SFE, are affected by predation risk. Teague et al. (1985) suggested that size-selective predation by American dippers (*Cinclus mexicanus*) restricted larger species of caddisflies like *Dicosmoecus* to deep habitats. Dippers ordinarily dive to depths of ~15 to 50 cm (Murrish 1970) and apparently selectively feed on relatively large, case-bearing caddisflies (Thut 1970). In contrast, predaceous fish, like steelhead trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), that reside in deeper, slower waters in SFE have difficulty eating large, armored 5th-instar *Dicosmoecus* (Power et al. 2008), like those

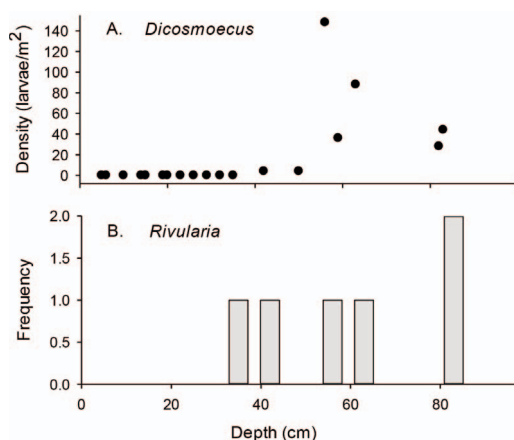


Fig. 3. (A) Quadrat samples along the 3 transects in the south fork of the Eel River ( $n = 20$ ) showing the relationship between water depth and *Dicosmoecus gilvipes* densities. (B) Depths at which the cyanophyte *Rivularia* was the dominant alga on stones in quadrats.

encountered in our study. Dippers are common along riparian areas of our study streams, and empty *Dicosmoecus* cases, along with dipper scat, were found on rocks protruding above the water in our shallowest study reach in SFE (MEP and JRH, personal observation). Whether water depth mediates dipper predation on *Dicosmoecus* warrants further attention, particularly considering that *Dicosmoecus* can significantly impact local periphyton standing crops (McAuliffe 1984) and production (Lamberti and Resh 1983).

MDS results indicated that *Psychoglypha* spp. presence was associated with current speed. Erman (1984) found *Psychoglypha* spp. feeding on plant matter mainly along shallow, slow-flowing stream margins in the Sierra Nevada of California. *Psychoglypha* are large-bodied (~20 mm long) and construct a case of plant litter and leaves (Wiggins 1977), which could increase form drag. Occupying slow-flowing stream margins or spaces between bed elements with slower flows or stable eddies (Davis and Barmuta 1989, Harrison and Keller 2007) could provide a refugium from hydraulic stress. However, such space use, coupled with large size, could make *Psychoglypha* spp. vulnerable to predators like dippers. However, we did not find empty *Psychoglypha* spp. cases on rocks frequented by dippers (MEP and JRH, personal observation), although this observation could, in part, be a result of the

overall rarity of *Psychoglypha* spp. in our study streams.

*Lepidostoma* sp. was densest in our shallowest study stream (Fox Creek). Late *Lepidostoma* instars (~8 mm length; Clifford 1991), like those we found, occur along shallow stream margins or in slow-flowing areas (pools, backwaters), where they consume mainly decaying plant matter (Erman 1984, Leland et al. 1986, Richardson 2001). MDS showed that densities were associated with BOM cover, which suggests that these caddisflies might be tracking food resources or plant detritus for case-building materials. The physical complexity of BOM patches might also serve as a refuge from predators (Lancaster et al. 1988).

*Glossosoma* spp. densities were similar among streams, and none of the environmental variables that we measured were associated with their densities. Densities were  $\leq 25$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>, except in Fox Creek, where densities averaged  $\sim 45$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>. In contrast, Teague et al. (1985) reported  $\sim 130$  *G. penitum* larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup> in Fox Creek, and McNeely and Power (2007) found *Glossosoma* spp. densities approaching 1000 larvae  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup> in some streams in the SFE drainage during midsummer (July). This variation, in part, is related to stream drainage area. McNeely and Power (2007) reported that *G. penitum* was most common in small streams with drainage areas between  $\sim 2$  and 3 km<sup>2</sup>, whereas *G. califica* was common in large streams with drainage areas  $> 10$  km<sup>2</sup>. They also suggested that low predation pressure might account for the high numbers of *Glossosoma* in small streams, despite their low productivity and algal biomass. Annual variation in predation pressure and algal productivity could explain density differences between studies. Moreover, we did not count larvae on rock undersides, which probably also contributed to the relatively low densities observed in our study. However, our results do suggest that *Glossosoma* spp. are not tracking a particular algal food source.

*Heteroplectron*, *Ecclisomyia*, and *Hydatophylax hesperus* were uncommon and found only in either Elder Creek or Fox Creek. These detritivores appear to prefer small-order streams with dense canopies and high allochthonous inputs (Erman 1984, Beche 2005). Further, we found *Neophylax* (likely *rickeri*) in both Elder and Fox Creeks, where densities never exceeded 3 larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>. McNeely

and Power (2007) similarly reported that *N. rickeri* was relatively abundant only in small streams in the SFE drainage, where densities peaked ( $\sim 80$  larva  $\cdot$  m<sup>-2</sup>) in June. *Neophylax rickeri* life histories (e.g., instar and adult emergence phenology) are highly variable between stream types even over small spatial scales (Mendez and Resh 2008), which might partly explain the low densities of *N. rickeri* we observed in Elder and Fox creeks and its absence in SFE study reaches. These low densities prevented us from ascribing microhabitat associations to *Neophylax*. However, Teague et al. (1985) found larvae to prefer large rocks, which might present a larger grazing patch than small rocks.

We show that caddisfly densities and assemblages varied between study reaches and streams and that habitat variables associated with microdistributions varied with species. Other studies have similarly shown that hydrological and food-source variability associated with stream size can generate assemblage and species richness differences between streams (Wiberg-Larsen et al. 2000, Meyer et al. 2007) and that local-scale habitat variables (e.g., substrate composition, food type, flow patterns) can strongly relate to caddisfly assemblage structure (Feminella and Resh 1991, Urbani et al. 2005, Gombeer et al. 2011). The preliminary findings reported here, coupled with information from sampling efforts in similar streams over broader time frames, should enable us to better understand how changing reach characteristics might generate predictable patterns in local caddisfly assemblages in Mediterranean-climate streams. Given their functional traits and diversity, small-scale differences in caddisfly abundance patterns could have important effects on large-scale processes, like the flow of algal and detrital carbon and energy through lotic food webs (McNeely and Power 2007).

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