



## Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Natural Heritage Program

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### *Brachyceercus flavus* Yellow Brachycercus Mayfly

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No photo available

**Identification:** Adult: The yellow brachecercus is a small mayfly; \* elongated body, very soft; hold wings together and above body; 2-3 hairs extend behind abdomen; very small antennae. Juvenile: dully colored, posses wings, pubescent. Larvae: Cylindrical, gills resemble leaves; 2-3 hairs extend behind abdomen (like a tail).

**Measurements\*:** Adults are typically 15 mm in length.

**Taxonomic comments:** No recognized recognized.

**Status:** Global rank is **G4** and state rank is **S1**. This species was identified as extinct in the Center for Biological Diversity's 2001 report.

**Habitat:** Clear creeks or medium rivers.

**Range:** The range of this species is not fully understood. It has been recorded in Louisiana, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, and Texas.

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**Food habits\*:** Larvae eat aquatic organisms and organic debris. Adult do not feed.

**Life expectancy\*:** Adults live a few days.

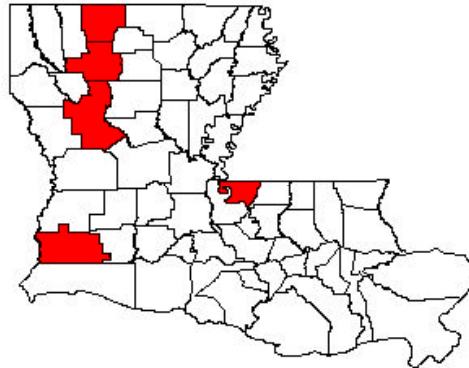
**Reproduction\*:** Mayfly larvae metamorphose into an intermediate stage called *subimago* which rest on the surface of the water. These "juveniles" molt before becoming adults. All adults emerge at a single time during the year to mate. Swarms move together and leave eggs attached to rocks in the water.

**Reason for decline\*:** Mayflies are very sensitive to the quality of their freshwater ecosystems. Anything contributing to habitat degradation, especially pollution, can threaten mayfly populations.

**Interesting facts\*:** 1) Mayflies are an important link in the food chain because they are a substantial part of the diet for many species of fish. Many flies used in fly-fishing are modeled after various species of mayflies. 2) There are 585 recognized species of mayflies in North America.

\*Indicates generalized information on mayflies as a result of a lack of information specific to this species.

**Known distribution in Louisiana:**



**Dates of documented observations are:** 1917, 1975, 1991, and 1992

**References**

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