

*THE DRAGONFLIES OF GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.* By Cyril O. HAMMOND, F.R.E.S. 115 pp., 23 figs., 20 col. pls., 44 maps incl. Curwen Books (The Curwen Press Ltd., North Street, Plaistow, London, E13 9HJ), 1977. — Price: £9.75.

In addition to PARR's review of this volume (1978, *Notul. odonatol.* 1: 14-16) I want to make a few notes.

(1) It is odd to include the Channel Islands explicitly in the distribution maps, while *Sympecma fusca*, *Lestes barbarus*, *L. viridis* and *Crocothemis erythraea*, known from these islands, are not mentioned in the check list (cf. W.J. LE QUESNE, 1946, *Bull. a. Soc. jersiaise* 14: 213-216; — W.A. LUFF, 1901, *Rep. Trans. Guernsey Soc. nat. Sci.* 1901: 29-31). If the Channel Islands are considered to be no part of Great Britain, they should be removed from the distribution maps. Furthermore, for practical reasons, it is better to explain the solid and open circles on the maps at the beginning of the chapter "The Plates" (p. 31) than at the beginning of the chapter "The Maps" (p. 92).

(2) Regarding the use of the generic name *Agrion*, pending a final decision of the

International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, it is acceptable to maintain this formalistically correct name. However, in order to avoid confusion, preference should be given to *Calopteryx*. Every odonatologist knows what *Calopteryx* means, but he will have to look twice to see which "*Agrion*" is meant. (For bibliography on the subject cf. B.E. MONTGOMERY, 1954, *Ann. ent. Soc. Am.* 47: 471-483).

(3) On p. 32 it is stated that Scottish examples of *Aeshna juncea* may have a much darker abdomen. In fact their whole body coloration is more obscure. On July 27, 1975 I took three males of this species at a slough within a fir-wood, 3.3 mi North of Aviemore, Scotland. The pale antehumeral stripes on the dorsum of the pterothorax of these males are weakly developed. The pale metepisternal marking above the spiracle is very small in one of them and it is entirely lacking in the other two specimens. The pale marking on the meso-paraptera is entirely lacking in one insect, practically lacking in another and weakly developed in the third male. The specimens are deposited in the British Museum (Nat. Hist.), London.

(4) In my opinion folk names arise spontaneously, but if anyone wishes to introduce popular names, these should not be partly technical. In this respect I can agree with Hammond's wholly English names. Longfield's popular name "The Scarce Aeshna", for instance, is not easier to remember than "*Aeshna mixta*". Besides, the present popular name cannot become international, since *A. mixta* is a common dragonfly in many countries.

(5) *Sympetrum scoticum* should be discarded in favour of *S. danae* (cf. C. LONGFIELD, 1954, *Ent. mon. Mag.* 90: 145-148). The name of Vander Linden is incorrectly abbreviated throughout the book. The description dates of *Aeshna mixta* Latreille, *Calopteryx splendens* (Harris), and *Ischnura elegans* (Vander Linden) should be 1805, 1782 and 1823, respectively.

Despite the shortcomings cited here and earlier by Professor M.J. Parr, this book may not be wanting in one's library, even if

merely for the excellent colour plates which comprise the major and most useful part of the volume.

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