

ORTHETRUM ALBISTYLUM (SEL.)
NEAR BELFORT, FRANCE (ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)

July 18, 1967 I visited a eutrophic pool between Mulhouse and Belfort, about 4 km southwest of Les Errues just before the branching of the road to Les Chavannes. The pool is situated close to the main road on the right side. It has a muddy shore and was surrounded by a *Carex* meadow. Besides specimens of *Ischnura elegans* (Vander L.), *Coenagrion puella* (L.), *Erythromma najas* (Hans.), *Libellula depressa* L., *Orthetrum cancellatum* (L.) and *Sympetrum danae* (Sulz.) there were about 20 males of *O. albistylum* on the wing above the water. Very often I saw "territorial" fights between this species and *O. cancellatum*. It was easy to distinguish from the latter by its more cylindrical (not depressed) abdomen and strictly contrasted black abdominal end.

It might be noteworthy, too, that *E. najas* usually flying over the floating leaves of *Nuphar*, *Nymphaea*, *Potamogeton* and others, was found here on little mud bunches rising above the water surface. A zone of floating leaves was lacking totally at this pool.

Propagation seems to be impossible under such conditions. Therefore either this population was not autochthonous or the pool had just been "cleaned" from such vegetation.

O. albistylum is a progressive Caspian faunal element (G. DE LATTIN, 1967, *Grundriß der Zoogeographie*; Fischer, Stuttgart) with a postglacial west extension as far as to the shore of the Gulf of Biscaya. In the west stable populations are to be found only south of the Central and Western Alps. It must be emphasized that this species is not a mediterranean faunal element as stated by D. ST. QUENTIN (1960, *Zool. Jb. Syst.* 87: 301-316). A detailed zoogeographical analysis of it is in preparation.

The above mentioned location is situated right within the "Burgundian Gate" that lies between the Vosges in the north and the Swiss Jura in the south, being a well known passage for South European species invading to the north along the Rhine basin. Only two other records of *O. albistylum* are known from this region: 1965 Neuenburg near Freiburg i.Br., German Federal Republic (H. KAISER & F. FRIEDRICH, 1974, *Mitt. bad. Landesver. Naturk. Naturschutz*, N.F., 11: 145-146), and 1972 Dampfreux northeast of Porrentruy, Switzerland (C. DUFOUR, 1978, *Etude faunistique des Odonates de Suisse romande*, Conserv. faune canton Vaud, Lausanne). The first record originates from the Rhine basin the second from the Swiss Jura.

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