

THE INDENTITY OF *ARGIA SAALASI* VALLE, 1942 (ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRI-ONIDAE)

*A. saalasi* Valle, which was described from material of southern Californian origin, has long been considered a mere synonym of either *A. agrioides* Calv. or *A. nahuana* Calv. (D.R. Paulson, pers.comm.; M.J. Westfall, Jr., pers.comm.). However, the true identity of *A. saalasi* has not been discussed in the literature.

The material on which K.J. VALLE (1942, *Annls ent. fenn.* 8:163-166) based his somewhat conditional description is to be found in the Zoological Museum of the University of Helsinki. It contains:

- Lectotype (here designated): ♂ labelled: "Riverside, Cal./U. Saalas [leg.]/188b/Mus. Zool. H:fors Spec. typ. No 6558 *Argia saalasi* Valle/*Argia saalasi* Valle ♂ det. Valle". — Part of legs lacking, blue colour well preserved.
- Paralectotypes (here designated): ♀ labelled: "Riverside, Cal./U. Saalas [leg.]/187b/Mus. Zool. H:fors Spec. typ. No 6559 *Argia saalasi* Valle/*Argia saalasi* Valle ♀ det. Valle". — Head, prothorax and middle legs lacking.
- ♀ labelled: "Riverside, Cal./U. Saalas [leg.]/189b/Coll. K.J. Valle/*Argia saalasi* Valle ♀ det. Valle". — Head, prothorax and legs lacking.

According to VALLE (1942; cf. above) the specimens were collected on July 7, 1928.

I have studied the specimens using L.K. GLOYD's (1958, *Occ. Pap. Mus. Zool. Univ. Mich.* 593:1-23) criteria of differentiating *A. agrioides* and *A. nahuana* and compared them with material of both sexes from California, kindly sent by Dr D.R. Paulson. It became evident that *A. saalasi* is conspecific with *A. nahuana*. The latter was originally described as a variety of *A. agrioides*, but was raised to specific status by GLOYD (1958; cf. above).

I am grateful to Dr D.R. PAULSON (Univ. Washington, Seattle) for valuable information and for sending material for comparison, and to Mr VESA VARIS (Zool. Mus., Univ. Helsinki) for permission to check the types of *A. saalasi*.

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