

As a part of his itinerary, the second author (PLM) joined the host (BKT) on a brief dragonfly collecting expedition in the desert district of Jodhpur and in the forests of Mt Abu in western and southern Rajasthan, respectively, during late August and early September, 1990. Rajasthan State experienced a very heavy monsoon that year, while Jodhpur district alone had about 1000 mm rainfall, the annual average being 300-350 mm. The last time it exceeded 1000 mm was in 1917. Rains of varying intensities occurred during the course of the authors' collecting.

Jodhpur is often referred to as "The Gateway to the Great Indian Desert" (Thar) and is, therefore, expected to harbour dragonflies characteristic of two kinds of biotope, i.e. the west-central planes of the mainland as well as the arid and desert zones of western Rajasthan. The authors are not aware of any official list of species describing either the desert or the mountainous dragonflies from Rajasthan, although the first author knows of some collections preserved in the ZSI's Arid Zone Research Centre, Jodhpur.

We collected around Kayalana lake (lat. 26°17'N, long. 73°2'E), 9 km W of the city of Jodhpur, on 31 August 1990. The lake (ca 500x500 m) has much vegetation along its edge and contained much algal growth. This is a man-manipulated natural water reservoir, connected to Jawai Dam in the adjoining Pali district by a feeder canal, and it serves to meet the demands of a part of the population.

Dragonflies were collected also around Nakki lake in Mt Abu, tucked in a glen ca 1220 m above sea level, and along various cascades in the bordering hills, in undisturbed forest, on 1 September 1990. *Lantana camara* grew in abundance around the lake. Mt Abu (lat. 24°6'N, long. 72°44'E; alt. 2886 m) marks the end of the SW extent of the famous Arawali range, nearly 270 km S of Jodhpur.

Most of the specimens collected are in the collection of PLM, some *Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (identified by S. Brooks, Nat. Hist. Mus., London) are in the S.I.O. (Regional Office in Southern Asia) collection.

Kayalana lake: *Rhodischnura nursei* Morton, 4 ♂, 1 ♀; — *Ictinogomphus rapax* (Ramb.),

5 ♂; — *Crocothemis servilia* (Dru.), 2 ♂, 1 ♀; — *Orthetrum sabina* Dru.), 1 ♂; — *Trithemis aurora* (Burm.), 1 ♂; — *T. pallidinervis* (Kirby), 3 ♂; — *Brachythemis contaminata* (Fabr.), 1 ♂; — *Pantala flavescens* (Fabr.), 1 ♂ — *Selysiotthemis nigra* (Vander L.), 1 ♂.

Nakki lake: *Ischnura a. aurora* (Br.), 1 ♂; — *Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (Ramb.), 4 ♂, 1 ♀; — *Orthetrum taeniolatum* (Schneid.), 1 ♂; — *O. pruinusum neglectum* (Ramb.), 1 ♂; — *O. t. triangulare* (Sel.), 1 ♂; — *Brachythemis contaminata* (Fabr.), 2 ♂, 1 ♀.

*I. rapax* was unusually abundant and very active reproductively. On several occasions, aerial copulation was observed lasting ca 5s, which was followed by male guarding during oviposition. *T. aurora* seemed to "follow" us for a few meters when approached. *R. nursei* was quite common around a shallow temporary pond near Kayalana lake. Several *D. quadrimaculata* individuals were seen in tandem in the close vicinity of Nakki lake. It was quite easy to capture them by hand and to approach closely for photography. *S. nigra*, which has not previously been recorded E of Pakistan, was seen to oviposit in tandem.

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