

CERIAGRION *COROMANDELIANUM*
(FABR.) LARVA WITH AN EXTRA WING-
-PAD (ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)

In a laboratory culture from field-collected freshly laid eggs of this species (deposited on *Salvinia* leaves; Sagar Lake, M.P., India; March 2, 1981), where the larvae were kept from the 2nd instar onwards individually in separate petri dishes, at 29-38°C, and were fed on zooplankton, we have noticed, at the 7th instar, an individual with an additional wing-pad.

The extra wing-pad was located on the meta-thoracic pleural ridge, on the right of the right hind wing-pad, slightly obscuring its base. All other organs were of normal size and maintained normal growth. Likewise, both fore and hind wing-pads were directed backwards, closely applied over the abdomen as was the extra wing-pad (Fig. 1.).

The size of the 5 wing-pads kept increasing through the 8th and 9th instars in the normal way. Lengthwise, the extra wing-pad almost always kept pace with the remaining pads. The larva died while molting into the 10th instar. When we found it dead, the exuviae of the 9th instar was still attached to the 10th instar at the spot of the extra wing-pad. Obviously, the additional wing-pad proved hindrance to casting off the exuviae. The remaining larvae gradually attained the 11th (ultimate) instar.

Various abnormalities in the orientation and direction of wing-pads are recorded in the literature (e.g. B.R. INGRAM, 1971, *The seasonal ecology of two species of damselflies (Odonata: Zygoptera), with special reference to the effects*

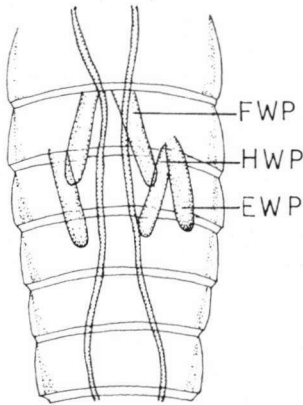


Fig. 1. dorsal view of the 7th instar larva, showing a supernumerary wing-pad.

of photoperiod and temperature on nymphal development, Ph.D. thesis, Univ. N. Carolina, Chapelhill), but we are not aware of an earlier record of the occurrence of a supernumerary wing-pad. The mechanisms responsible for this teratological phenomenon remain unknown.

B. Suri Babu, Mobile Forensing Science Laboratory, Police Office, Jagdalpur-494001, India; — V.K. Srivastava, Department of Zoology, Chaudhary Mahadev Prasad College, University of Allahabad, 318 Alop Bagh, Allahabad-211006, India; — and B.K. Srivastava, Department of Zoology, Dr H.S. Gour University, Sagar-470003, India