

**AN INTERESTING GLEANING BEHAVIOUR  
BY *LESTES VIRENS* (CHARP.) (ZYGOPTERA:  
LESTIDAE)**

On 1 September 1997 I visited the locality Dobrá-Kamenec near the town of Frýdek-Místek (E Czech Republic), alt. 315 m. On the Riss terrace above the Morávka River, there is a pond (15×20 m) where, in a sun-lit *Juncus* vegetation was a web of an unidentified spider. It was approximately rectangular in shape (12×10 cm), some 20 cm above the water, supported by *Juncus* blades. A male *L. virens* was perched on a blade, some 15 cm from the web, oriented vertically, heading down the web. The web was sun-lit, and from the dragonfly position all fibres could be seen very clearly. In its centre was caught a small leafhopper (Homoptera).

Suddenly the dragonfly took off, flew towards the web, and approached the leafhopper. During several seconds it touched the web 6 times with stretched legs. Finally the dragonfly managed to get the leafhopper out of the web and flew to the nearby *Juncus* blade, where it started to consume the catch. The spider, still sitting on the blade to which the web was fixed, did not seem to have noticed the loss of the prey.

This kind of gleaning behaviour seems to be unusual in European Zygoptera. In *Ischnura elegans* it was reported by M.J. PARR & M. PARR (1996, *Notul. odonatol.* 4: 124). This hunting method certainly is accidental and probably often fatal. Some of the dragonflies, often found caught in spider webs, might be victims of this kind of feeding attempts.

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