

## Some remarks on Odonata from Holland and Belgium

by  
K. LEMS

*Lestes dryas* Kirby, Odonata fauna of Texel.

During a small collecting trip to the island of Texel I took two specimens and saw several more of *Lestes dryas* Kirby in the dense vegetation along the dune lake "de Geul" (Texel, de Geul, 1-VII-1951). No other species of the Lestids were present; of *dryas*, both males and females were juvenile. Very remarkably coincident is the occurrence of the frog *Rana arvalis* in the same habitat; this frog regularly occurs in heath-fens, mainly in the eastern parts of the country, in the same type of habitat where one would expect *dryas*. The distribution of *dryas* in our country is diluvial. It mainly breeds in fens in open heaths.

The other species observed on 1-VII-1951 are:

*Ischnura elegans* Vanderl. (common all over the island),

*Agrion pulchellum* Vanderl. (de Geul, a few specimens),

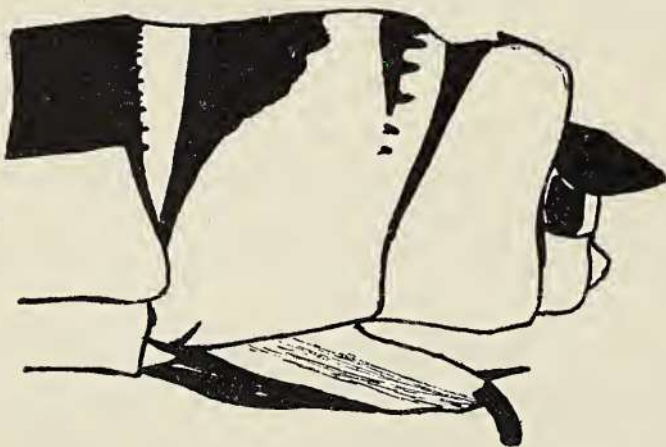
*Sympetrum* sp. (not captured, de Geul),

*Orthetrum cancellatum* L. (several near dune lake "de Muy"),

*Libellula quadrimaculata* L. (common along dune lakes),

*Brachytron pratense* Müll. (one female, de Geul).

*Erythromma viridulum* Charp. I caught an *Agrion*-like dragonfly with conspicuous green antehumeral stripes and without postocular spots on the head at Leidschendam on 6 September 1951. The abdomen and thorax sides are blueish green. I decided it was *Erythromma viridulum* Charp. and Dr M. A. LIEFTINCK kindly confirmed my determination. The fact that, apart from the red *Pyrrosoma*'s, only the two species of *Erythromma* are lacking postocular spots, and the size of the specimen caught, which is smaller than the common *E. najas* Hansem. (abdomen of the former: 24.6 mm, hindwings: 19.5 mm) leave no doubt about the identity of the specimen.



*Erythromma viridulum* Charp.

Last abdominal segments of ♀.

In Odonata Neerlandica (M. A. LIEFTINCK, 1925) one male is recorded (Heerlen (L.), VI-1917, C. WILLEMSE), and one male labelled „Nederland" of v. D. WEELE (Leyden Mus.). Dr LIEFTINCK most kindly informs me that two more specimens have been taken in our country: Wageningen (Gueld.), 3-VII-1936 (female), *ibid.* 11-VII-1936 (male) (GEIJSKES). "It is generally accepted now that *viridulum* frequents old river branches; that seems to be the case in Germany too" (Lieftck. in litt.).

How this fluviatile species came to Leidschendam (near The Hague) remains rather mysterious. The species occurs in S. E. Europe and central Asia. It is known from Belgium (rare) and Germany (rare and very local). No records from England and Denmark.

*Cordulegaster annulatus* Latr. (*boltonii* Donovan). In the "Verslag van de 102de Zomervergadering der Ned. Ent. Ver. op 21 Juni 1947." (Proc. 102nd Summermeeting Neth. Ent. Soc., June 21st, 1947; publ. Sept. 1st, 1948) M. A. LIEFTINCK mentions the observation of a male *Cordulegaster boltonii* at Epen, South Limburg, Onderste Bos, 13-VI-1947. During an excursion to South Limburg in June 1951 I caught two females of the species exactly at the same place (Epen, 5-VI-1951). In Holland the species occurs regularly only at Belfeld, where it flies above running water. Though the only streaming water at Epen is the Geul, *C. annulatus* apparently prefers the forests. Along the Geul we looked for it in vain.

That *Cordulegaster* is not restricted to forest habitat may be shown by a capture I did in the „Hautes Fagnes”, Belgium, where it hunted over very small brooks which extract water from the vast marshes (9-VIII-1950).

Later on in Belgium I met *Cordulegaster* again, in the valley of the Warche, above Malmédy, where it is very common (July 18-31, 1951). It hunts low over the quickly running water. Several times I noticed females laying eggs. Somehow they are able to find a shallow place, where no more than 2 or 3 cm water runs over the stones. Then they dance up and down, each time dipping the abdomen, very frequently (about 3 times in 2 seconds). This "egg-dance" lasts for some 10 or 20 seconds, then another place is visited.

Several problems arise :

1. How does a female *Cordulegaster annulatus* "decide" whether a place is shallow enough for its purpose ?
2. Does it indeed lay eggs each time it dips the abdomen ?
3. Do the eggs stick to the stones, even in the strong current ? And if so, how does the female manage to fasten them to the substrate so quickly ? Perhaps a correlation exists between the strong ovipositing apparatus and the specialised manners of oviposition.

No male was noticed flying in the neighbourhood, as many Aeshnids are known to do.

Leidschendam, 18 Sept. 1951.

---

**Rhyparia purpurata** L. (Lep.). Eind April en begin Mei werden in Midden-Limburg een 30-tal *purpurata*-rupsen gevonden. De heer NIES had het geluk de eerste te zien, en toen volgden er meer. Als vliegplaats komt me voor : open hei met hier en daar bremstruiken. Vooral de kleine jonge struikjes leken me erg in trek. Daar vond ik de mijne (6 stuks), soms twee tegelijk op een klein struikje. De rupsen eten met voorliefde de bloemen, wanneer die er zijn. Momenteel (8 Mei) zijn er al drie ingesponnen.

De dieren zijn buitengewoon vlug. Als ze vallen, lopen ze als een muisje.

E. J. E. LÜCKER, Willem II Singel 28, Roermond.