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SHORT COMMUNICATION

THERMAL POLLUTION AS A PROBABLE CAUSE OF A WINTER ECDYSIS OF *AESHNA CYANEA* (MÜLLER) (ANISOPTERA: *AESHNIDAE*)

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A teneral female of *Aeshna cyanea* (Müll.) was captured in the city of Aalst, Belgium, on January 15, 1971. The early ecdysis is supposed to be due to thermal pollution of the larval biotope.

At the veranda of a house in the city of Aalst, Eastern Flandres, Belgium, a teneral female of *Aeshna cyanea* (Müll.) was captured on January 15, 1971.

The appearance of a teneral adult in the middle of winter can only be due to an early ecdysis caused by thermal pollution of the aquatic biotope. There are at least two thermally polluted ponds in the vicinity of Aalst. Since one of these is also chemically polluted by the affluents of a laundry, it is most likely that our specimen originates from a small pond, used in the cooling system of a relatively large plant and in which thermal pollution is fairly strong around the year.

Though effects of thermal pollution of the larval biotope on the phenology of various aquatic insects have often been observed (*e.g.* COUTANT, 1967; LANGFORD, 1971; LANGFORD & ASTON, 1972), this is, to our knowledge, the first case in a dragonfly.

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