

SHORT COMMUNICATION

**A NOTE ON THE ODONATE COLLECTION IN THE ENTOMOLOGY
DIVISION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, NEPAL**

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A brief outline is given of the aims of the Nepalese Museum of Entomology, Lalitpur, with an annotated list of 11 odonate species harboured in its collections. Among these, *Nannophya pygmaea* Ramb. is new to the Nepalese fauna, while *Rhinocypha bifasciata* Sel. had been recorded only once previously from the Nepalese territory. A bibliography of papers on the Nepalese odonate fauna, published after World War II, is added.

INTRODUCTION

In view of the ever increasing interest of odonatologists in the fauna of Nepal and the Himalayan region, we have gladly accepted the invitation by the Editor of *Odonatologica* to prepare a brief note on the odonate collection harboured in our institution. The author sincerely hopes that the below lines will induce the odonatologists visiting Nepal to pay a visit also to our Museum. He is sure that contacts established in this way will be greatly profitable for the advancement of Nepalese entomology.

For the sake of convenience we have considered useful to append a bibliography of papers on Nepalese Odonata that have appeared after World War II.

THE INSECT MUSEUM OF THE ENTOMOLOGY DIVISION

Ever since the inception of the Entomology Division in 1955, in the framework of the Department of Agriculture of H.M.G. of Nepal, reference collections of insects are being steadily brought together. However, the Insect Museum got its special identity within the Division only in 1963, with the attachment of a taxonomist to its staff. Due to the latter's active participation in collecting, preserving and sending specimens abroad for identification, a sizable reference museum of insects has taken shape. At present the Museum harbours some 2000 identified species, referable to all major orders.

The main aims of the Museum are: (1) the organization of a reference collection of insects associated with Nepalese agriculture, to be used for rapid identification in the service of crop protection; (2) the preparation of annotated lists of species known as major pests of the Nepalese crops; (3) the preparation of lists of natural enemies of the former, and (4) the preparation of lists of insects of major economic importance in Nepal.

The emphasis of the Entomology Division is on crop pests, therefore most of the insects in the Museum belong to this particular category. However, next to species of some aesthetic value, it is attempted to include as many as possible of other taxa as well.

Dragonflies are important predators on pests both in their immature stages in the rice fields and as adults. For this reason the order is well represented in the Museum. It is unfortunate that no more than 11 species have been identified by specialists. In view of the scanty information on the odonate distribution in Nepal, a list of these is given in Table I.

THE LIST OF SPECIES

The taxa listed in Table I were identified by Mr. D.E. Kimmins of the British Museum (Nat. Hist.). All specimens are pinned adults. A considerable number of unidentified species present in the collections had to be omitted from the list.

Although short, the list includes two species of particular interest:

- (1) *Rhinocypha bifasciata* Sel., from Gokarna and Godavari in the Kathmandu Valley, is here reported from Nepal for the second time only. It has been recorded previously from a stream near Birganj in the Terai (ASAHINA, 1965a). This is an eastern Himalayan species, known from Assam and Darjeeling (cf. FRASER, 1934. Fauna Brit. India 2: 29-31); the Kathmandu Valley thus representing its westernmost locality so far known.

- (2) *Nannophya pygmaea* Ramb. is new to the Nepalese fauna. This is a wide-spread southeast Asiatic species, ranging from Celebes, Borneo and Sumatra, through Malaysia and Indochina into southern China (cf. FRASER, 1936. Fauna Brit. India 3: 322-323; LIEFTINCK, 1954. Treubia 22, suppl., p. 140; NEEDHAM, 1930. Zool. Sin. 11/1: 119). The Nepalese record thus extends the known range of the species considerably.

Table I
The hitherto identified Odonata of the Museum

| Family <i>Species</i> | Locality | Date | Collector |
|---|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Synlestidae | | | |
| <i>Megalestes major</i> Selys, 1862 | Kakani | VII, 1962 | P.N. Rana |
| Chlorocyphidae | | | |
| <i>Rhinocypha bifasciata</i> Selys, 1879 | Gokarna Godavari | VII, 1961 X, 1966 | D.R. Sharma K.C. Sharma |
| Calopterygidae | | | |
| <i>Neurobasis chinensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758) | Jyamire (Makwanpur) | II, 1964 | N. Kumar |
| Cordulegasteridae | | | |
| <i>Anotogaster nipalensis</i> Selys, 1850 | Godavari | VIII, 1968 | N. Kumar |
| Libellulidae | | | |
| <i>Crocotthemis servilia</i> (Drury, 1773) | Kathmandu, Meen Bhavan | X, 1961 | G.H. Shrestha |
| <i>Orthemis triangulare triangulare</i> (Selys, 1878) | Surya Vinayak, Bhaktapur | VII, 1963 | N. Kumar |
| <i>Nannophya pygmaea</i> Rambur, 1842 | Gokarna Kathmandu | VII, 1961 VII, 1961 | D.R. Sharma D.R. Sharma |
| <i>Neurothemis fulvia</i> (Drury, 1773) | Kathmandu | V, 1965 | K.N. Sharma |
| <i>N. intermedia intermedia</i> (Rambur, 1842) | Kathmandu | VII, 1962 | anonymous |
| <i>Palpopleura sexmaculata</i> (Fabricius, 1787) | Kathmandu | | |
| <i>Pantala flavescens</i> (Fabricius, 1798) | Sarlahi | VII, 1961 | D.R. Sharma |

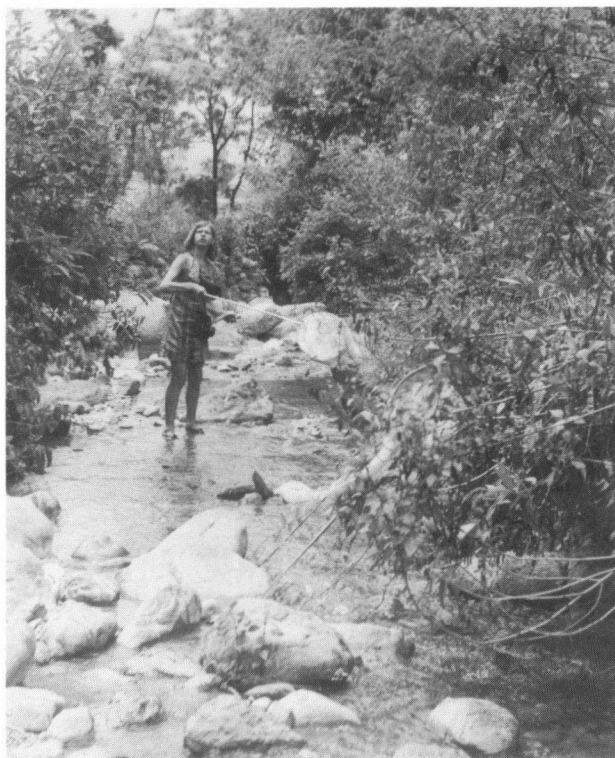


Fig. 1. Dragonfly collecting at a characteristic rivulet in Godavari, near the Royal Botanic Gardens. Among the species breeding in it are *Rhinocypha quadrimaculata* Sel., *R. unimaculata* Sel., *Bayadera indica* (Sel.), *Neurobasis chinensis* (L.), *Onychogomphus bistrigatus* (Hag.), *Temnogomphus bivittatus* (Sel.), *Macromia moorei* Sel., and *Anotogaster nipalensis* Sel. The Godavari area is one of the classical dragonfly localities in the Kathmandu Valley, being very rich in various types of running and stagnant water. It is the type locality of the platycnemidide *Coeliccia dierli* ST. QUENTIN, 1970. The list of species recorded from this area includes, among others, also *Calicnemia nipalica* (Kimmings), *C. pulverulans* (Sel.), *Coeliccia renifera* (Sel.), *Ceriagrion azureum* (Sel.), *C. cerinomelas* Lieft., *Enallagma parvum* Sel., *Ischnura aurora* (Brau.), *I. forcipata* Mort., *I. mildredae* Fraser, *I. rufostigma annandalei* Laid., *Megalestes major* Sel., *Lestes dorothea* Fraser, *Anisopleura comes* Sel., *A. lestoides* Sel., *Anisogomphus occipitalis* (Sel.), *Onychogomphus schmidtii* Fraser, *Chlorogomphus olympicus* Fraser, *C. selysii* Fraser, *Anax nigrofasciatus nigrolineatus* Fraser, *Gynacantha incisura* Fraser, *Acisoma panorpoides* Ramb., *Crocothemis servilia* (Drury), *Diplacodes trivialis* (Ramb.), *Neurothemis fulvia* (Drury), *N. intermedia intermedia* (Ramb.), *Orthetrum devium* Needh., *O. glaucum* (Brau.), *O. japonicum internum* MacL., *O. luzonicum* Brau., *O. pruinosum neglectum* (Ramb.), *O. sabina* (Drury), *O. triangulare triangulare* (Sel.), *Paltopeura sexmaculata* (Fabr.), *Pantala flavescens* (Fabr.), *Trithemis aurora* (Burm.) and *T. festiva* (Ramb.). – (Photo: B. Kiauta).

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