

SHORT COMMUNICATIONS

**ANAX GEORGIUS SELYS, 1872 FROM TIMOR, NOT FROM NATAL!  
(ANISOPTERA: AESHNIDAE)**

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*A. georgius* has been described as occurring in "Natal or Timor". A redescription is given here, based on a ♂ taken from Kupang, Timor, in 1973.

INTRODUCTION

In his description of *Anax goliath*, SELYS (1872) added a short note of another *Anax* species, "*Anax georgius*, de Selys (de Natal?)", stating its differences from *A. goliath* and *A. gibbosulus*. KIRBY listed it in his *Catalogue* (1890) with the locality indication "Natal". Then, this species was redescribed by MARTIN (1908), who added a figure of caudal appendages and noted "Habitat: Natal".

In his fine work on South African Odonata RIS (1921) made a careful study of the type specimen, giving a very detailed description and measurements with a note that there is "an old label in de Selys' hand — Vanderh. Timor? or Natal?" Ris further added "there are under the same collector's name (Vanderhoffen) other South African, but also Malaysian and Japanese insects in the collection". Ris seemed to have been inclined to conclude its origin to be Africa, from the similarity with African *Anax tristis*. Later, PINHEY (1951) cited Ris' description and listed this species in his *Catalogue* (1962) with a question-mark stating "probably not originally taken in Africa".

In my collection I found a strange *Anax* species taken by Dr S. Shinonaga at the Islands of Timor, during his 1973 medical-fly survey in Indonesia. From its peculiar feature I now believe that it is undoubtedly *Anax georgius* and that its habitat is certainly Timor, not Natal, South Africa! In the following, a description of this specimen is given.

*ANAX GEORGIUS* SELYS, 1872

Figures 1-5

SELYS, 1872, p. 179 "(de Natal?)"; — KIRBY, 1890, p. 84 "Natal"; — MARTIN, 1908, pp. 16-17, fig. 10 (♂ app.), "Habitat: Natal", Pl. 1, fig. 1 (♂ total fig.); — RIS, 1921, pp. 371-372 "an old label in de Selys' hand (Vanderh. Timor? ou Natal?)"; — PINHEY, 1951, pp. 171-172; — PINHEY, 1962, p. 194 "probably not originally taken in Africa, Type ♂ in Mus. Brux."; — DAVIES & TOBIN, 1985, p. 9 "Timor (or Natal)".

Material examined. — 1 ♂, Kupang, Timor, 18-XII-1973, Shinonaga leg.

♂ (ad.): Abd. 62 mm, — app. sup. 5.5 mm, — app. inf. 4.0 mm, — hindwing 52 mm.

A large *Anax* species with slender abdomen and very long caudal appendages. Ground colour of the body changed into dark brownish due to discoloration.

Head almost entirely pale yellow (greenish when alive). In frontal view there is no indication of a dark stripe at the clypeofrontal suture; labrum with reddish brown anterior margin; labium uniformly palest brown, only the extreme apices darker. Dorsal side of frons with a distinct T-mark, the upper bar of it is covering the top ridge (Fig. 1), but the stem of the "T" connecting the broad basifrontal black stripe is very narrow. There are peculiar dark markings (supposedly bluish when alive?) on both sides of the T-mark. The frontal edge of the ocular tubercle is narrowly pale. Median eye-line very long, the occipital triangle small and black.

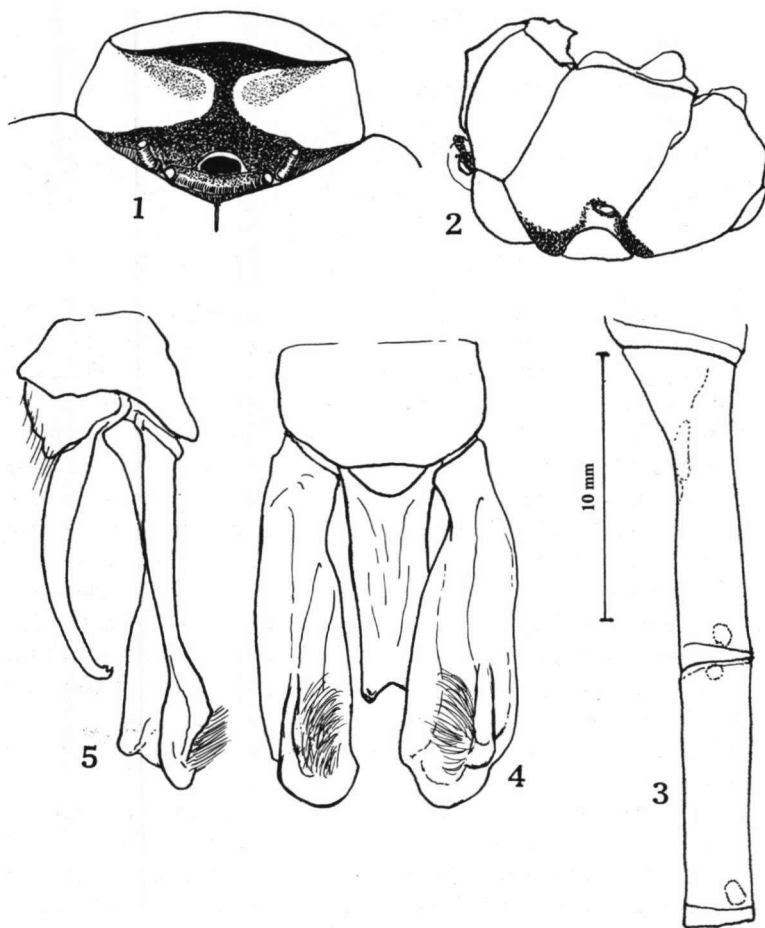
Pterothorax large, dorsal carina narrow and black. There is no dark area on the pleurites and on the pleural sutures, but the ventral border of both epimera are tinted darker, as in *A. guttatus* (Fig. ?).

Legs almost black coloured, all coxae and tibiae brownish tinted, extreme base of femora also.

Wings are palely browned on the apical 2/3 in this aged specimen. In the hindwings the colour is darker at 1/3 from the base, but proximally to it the wing is entirely hyaline. Triangles of both wings elongated laterally, 7-celled in the forewing, 6-celled in the hind. Nodal index: 11:20::19:10 / 12:14::14:13. Pterostigma brownish black, length 4.0 mm in the forewing, 4.3 mm in the hind. Membranule violet brown, its basal border narrowly white.

Abdomen slender, proximal segments very long, the third one attaining 12 mm, the fourth 10 mm (Fig. 3). The abdominal spots are obscured by decomposition, but there seem to exist small lateral paired spots distally on segments 3-8.

Caudal appendages have an unusual appearance, the long superior appendage is without any external apical spine and produced into a round-headed apex. There is, on the ridge at the broadened distal area, a bundle of long hairs (Fig. 4). If seen from the side, the inside process is produced making an angle (Fig. 5). The inferior appendage is also exceptional among *Anax* species, it is very long and slender, as long as ca 3/4 of the superior, with clearly notched apex (Fig. 4). There is a round process at the base of the superior appendages, which must be the "lamina accessoria", judging from its homologous situation.



Figs 1-5. *Anax georgius* Selys, ♂, Timor, Lesser Sunda Islands: (1) T-mark on the frons; — (2) Pterothorax, lateral view; — (3) Third and fourth segments of abdomen, lateral view; — (4) Caudal appendages, dorsal view; — (5) Do., lateral view.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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