

TAXONOMIC STATUS OF *OROLESTES MOTIS* BAIJAL & AGARWAL, 1955, *PLATYLESTES ORIENTALIS* BAIJAL & AGARWAL, 1955 AND *ANAX MARGINOPE* BAIJAL & AGARWAL, 1955 (ZYGOPTERA: LESTIDAE; ANISOPTERA: AESHNIDAE)

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The re-examination of type specimens of the 3 spp., described by H.N. BAIJAL & J.P. AGARWAL (1955, *Agra Univ. J. Res. (Sci.)* 4:453-470) and deposited in ZSI, Calcutta, reveals that *O.motis*, *P.orientalis* and *A.marginope* are junior synonyms of *Lestes umbrinus* Selys, 1892, *Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (Rambur, 1842) and *Hemianax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839), respectively.

INTRODUCTION

BAIJAL & AGARWAL (1955) described *Orolestes motis*, *Platylestes orientalis* and *Anax marginope* from India. Recently while studying the Odonate fauna of eastern India, the author studied the type specimens of the aforesaid species, present in the Zoological Survey of India, Calcutta. The study reveals that these authors did not follow FRASER's 1933 & 1936 monograph carefully. The result of the present study is given below.

"*OROLESTES MOTIS*" BAIJAL & AGARWAL, 1955

The species was described on the basis of 1 ♂ and 1 ♀, collected at Gwalior. In the type specimens, Cu₂ is not arched at its origin, wings are hyaline, there are a few (only 10) postnodals, and the specimens are smaller than any *Orolestes* McLachlan species known. Furthermore, the colour of the body, head and abdomen, and the shape of anal appendages (from the diagram) clearly show the species is conspecific with *Lestes umbrinus*.

It is, therefore, concluded that *Orolestes motis* Baijal & Agarwal is a junior synonym of *Lestes umbrinus* Selys, 1892.

"PLATYLESTES ORIENTALIS" BAIJAL & AGARWAL, 1955

The species was described from a single ♂, taken at Delhi. The distal side of the discoidal cell in the holotype is squared. There are no intercalated sectors at the apical end of the wing. The specimen has 15 postnodals (wrongly reported 12) in the fore wing, and 13 in the hind wing (wrongly reported 17). The wings are marked by a broad blackish-brown fascia. The colour of head, thorax and abdomen clearly agree with the description of *Disparoneura quadrimaculata*, as provided by FRASER (1933), and match the specimens in the ZSI collection, Calcutta.

Consequently, it is concluded that *Platylestes orientalis* Baijal & Agarwal is a synonym of *Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (Rambur, 1842).

"ANAX MARGINOPE" BAIJAL & AGARWAL, 1955

The species is based on a single ♀, taken (at light) in Agra. In the holotype there are 3 rows of cells between the origins of Cu₂ and 1A in the hind wing; wings palely enfumed, hind wing with a patch of amber yellow, pterostigma bright ochreous, membrane white (left fore and hind wing missing). Abdomen lacks secondary ridges; a small dorsal area adjacent to the jugal suture of segment 2 of abdomen is marked with blue. Anal appendages reddish brown, lanceolate as per figure, since the free ends of the appendages are missing.

From the above it is clear that the specimen agrees with FRASER's (1936) description of *Hemianax ephippiger*, as well as with specimens of this species in the ZSI collection, Calcutta.

It is concluded, therefore, that *Anax marginope* Baijal & Agarwal is a synonym of *Hemianax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839).

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