

EDITORIAL

In accordance with suggestions received from the SIO membership during the last two international symposia of odonatology (Lancaster 1975, Gainesville 1977), the Society has pleasure in presenting to the readers the first issue of the new semiannual bulletin, which will appear simultaneously with the June and December issues of Odonatologica, and be mailed automatically to all SIO members and subscribers to Odonatologica. A volume will consist of 10 issues. There will be no extra charge in 1978, but a small contribution may be asked for from 1979 onwards. Separate subscription, for non-members of SIO and for non-subscribers to Odonatologica, will also be possible.

The publication program of NOTULAE ODONATOLOGICAE will focus strongly on short, original papers related to faunistics, field observations, breeding and laboratory records, critical book reviews, etc., which are not within the remit of Odonatologica. In this way the Society will attempt to further stimulate odonatological research and to concentrate, as far as possible, the hitherto scattered odonatological notes within the pages of a single periodical, thus making them easily available also to those workers who do not have the facilities of large libraries. It is considered that this will be of obvious benefit to amateurs and professionals alike, since in the long run, and coupled with the Odonatological Abstracts, it will further reduce the ever increasing time one must spend scanning a multitude of non-specialized journals to keep abreast with work in one's field.

The value of a specialized bulletin to the amateur and, as such, to odonatology in general, cannot be underestimated. The 20th century is most definitely not the century of the amateur. While it must be admitted that professionalism has added very markedly to the development of odonatology, it is most unfortunate that the ever willing and very competent contributions of amateurs have mostly been moved off stage into the records

of local natural history clubs and similar obscure periodicals. The world of odonatology can benefit from the often meticulous records of amateur workers and NOTULAE ODONATOLOGICAE will attempt to provide the means of communicating these data to all workers in the field.

Equally important is the Society's hope that the availability of such a publication will provide the amateur worker with the opportunity, and therefore the encouragement and satisfaction, of making an equal contribution to the development of the now-labelled "professional" world of science. The Society is convinced that NOTULAE ODONATOLOGICAE will be able to preserve many incidental but important records and observations, which hitherto have disappeared in the drawers of dragonfly workers throughout the world.

In order to encourage publication, NOTULAE ODONATOLOGICAE will accept any original, scientifically sound contributions, written in any language using the Latin script, though the use of English is strongly recommended. Species identification will have to remain in most cases the responsibility of the authors. All non-English papers will be provided with an English translation of the title, and all papers will be preceded by a brief English abstract.

It is unfortunate that, for reasons of finance, the Society will be unable to provide "clean" reprints; instead the authors will receive the ordered number of pages containing their article.

In order to provide better communication, the Society has attempted to set up an Editorial Board which is, as far as possible, geographically representative. Its members will function also as a liaison between the local workers and the Society, particularly so in those countries where the SIO has no official representatives. It is hoped that this too will be to the benefit of odonatologists and odonatology alike.

Last but not least, the Society is well aware that the success of this new venture will depend entirely on the cooperation of all dragonfly workers throughout the world. If, however, the above expressed expectations materialize, the Society will have succeeded in one of its foremost missions.