

THE DRAGONFLIES OF NAGANO PREFECTURE. By Nagao KOYAMA [Supervisor], Shigeo EDA [Chief Editor], Takashi ANDO, Shohei FUJISAWA, Fumio ITO, Minoru KURATA, Den KURIBAYASHI, Wataru MIYATA, Imato SONEHARA & Tatsuo TAKIZAWA. II + 196 pp., 4 col. pls., 44 maps incl. Shinano Kyoiku-Kai Shuppanbu, Nagano (1098 Asahimachi, Nagano, Nagano 380, Japan), June 15, 1977. (In Japanese, with English translation of the title). — Price: Y 1800.—.

In 1955 Dr. S. Asahina published a booklet, "*Shinano Serei-Shi*", and listed 75 dragonfly species of this area. This stimulated the study of this group of insects in each district of the Nagano Prefecture. In 1972, along with the publication of "*The butterflies of Nagano Prefecture*", a similar faunal book, "*The Odonata of Nagano Prefecture*", was proposed to the members of the Entomological Society of Shinshu, Nagano Prefecture, and a number of editorial members were nominated. This project was much accelerated, as a 25 years memorial issue of the said Society, by the joining of Dr. S. EDA, who came to Matsumoto Dental College in 1974.

Each of the ten authors worked on some part, and the manuscript was edited to a uniform style by Dr. S. EDA, under the supervision of Prof. N. Koyama. Finally, 87 species were enumerated.

The book contains the following chapters: General aspects of dragonflies of the Nagano Prefecture, Brief history of dragonfly research in the Nagano Prefecture, Key to the families, Ecological glossary, Systematic account of the Nagano dragonflies (per species), tabular review of the distribution within the Prefecture, and a Bibliography on the Nagano dragonflies (257 titles).

Under each species the distribution, life-history, some notes on behaviour, and collection records are given along with a black-and-white photograph of a living insect or

important specimen, all taken in the Nagano Prefecture. There are also diagnostic figures of caudal appendages and body markings of taxonomically difficult species. For each species 2-4 pages are allotted; no description is given of larval stages.

It is said that the authors made a special effort to keep a uniform style for all the species listed. The distribution records are carefully checked and these will be useful as an evidence for the possible future changes of the fauna of this Prefecture. Perhaps the book will set a standard model for the style of this kind of faunistic treatise (of various insect groups) in this country.

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