

This slim volume, comprising an Introduction, Index and 45 maps showing the distribution of 44 species of British Odonata is a welcome addition to the list of other Provisional Atlases of British Insects. The volumes published so far are: (1) Butterflies, (2) Moths (part — small families), (3) Bumble bees; (4) Fleas, (5) Ants, (6) Orthoptera, (7) Odonata, (8) Caddis flies, (9) Social wasps.

The Introduction states that the distribution maps have been prepared from records submitted by the participants in the Odonata Distribution Maps Scheme, to which data abstracted from museum material and the literature have been added. All records received up to the end of May, 1977 are incorporated. In the case of Ireland, some of the old records made before 1960 can only be referred to the vice-county, whereas the bulk of the records relate to specific 10 km squares of the National Grid.

On the maps solid dots are used to represent records from 1961 onwards and open circles represent records pre-1961: this results in very clear distributional patterns. A study of the Records Received (Map 1) will reveal a large number of areas where apparently no records are available of even very common and widespread species. However, the stated provisional nature of the maps should stimulate both amateur and professional odonatologists to send new records to the national Biological Records Centres in England or Ireland. The organisers of the Mapping Scheme are to be congratulated on making so much progress towards a definitive atlas by attaining the present degree of national coverage. Nevertheless, it will only be possible to complete the task by ensuring that all odonatologists in the British Isles are encouraged to continue to support this very worthwhile scheme.

It seems important to reiterate some of J. BELLE's comments (1978, *Notul. odonatol.* 1: 31-32) relating specifically to the book by C.O. HAMMOND — The dragonflies of the British Isles, but which are also relevant in the present context. The Channel Islands, which are politically part of Great Britain, are included on the maps, but species known from these islands are not recorded in the Atlas.

PROVISIONAL ATLAS OF THE INSECTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES (European Invertebrate Survey), Part 7: ODONATA DRAGONFLIES. By John HEATH (Ed.). 48 pp. Natural Environment Research Council. Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Huntingdon, 1978. — Price: £2.50.

Until a final decision is reached by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, it seems advisable to use the generic name *Calopteryx* instead of *Agrion* in order to avoid possible confusion, and indeed, this is the policy of the Societas Internationalis Odonatologica and its two international journals. The name *Sympetrum danae* is preferable to *S. scoticum* and the author of *Ischnura elegans* should be abbreviated to Vander L.

It would be useful if in future publications of this series a list of previously issued Parts of the Atlas, with prices, could be printed, say, inside the front or back cover.

Despite these relatively minor blemishes, the appearance of this first Atlas is a praiseworthy effort of many entomologists, co-ordinated by John Heath. The responsibility for the Odonata Mapping Scheme has been assumed by Mr. D. Chelmick, 6 Gander Hill, Haywards Heath, Sussex, to whom all further records should be submitted.

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