

**NOTES ON A SMALL DRAGONFLY
COLLECTION FROM CHINA**

Between the 5th and 22nd July 1976 I visited the Peoples' Republic of China as a member of a New Zealand student delegation. The party visited Canton (Guangzhou), Nanchang, Hangchow, Shanghai and Peking (Beijing). Because of the circumstances of the trip dragonflies were collected only in Hangchow and Canton. A general account of the trip has been given in R.J. ROWE (1979, *Weta* 3: 1: 1-2).

In central Peking crepuscular dragonflies were common on the avenue leading to Tien

An Men Square and immediately in front of the Tien An Men Gate. Both an aeshnid (possibly *Aeshna*) and a libellulid (possibly *Pantala flavescens*) emerged in the early evening and started to hawk among the trees just as the swifts (*Apodidae*) sought roosting sites. Local children attempted to catch these dragonflies while they were roosting during the day, by tapping them on the back with a blob of sticky earth at the end of a long bamboo pole. The children I watched had no success with the roosting dragonflies but did catch a number of cicadas. A local guide told me that her two children sometimes caught up to twenty dragonflies in a day this way, the live animals were brought home and liberated to fly about the flat.

Because of the heavy pedestrian traffic in the area (it is China's equivalent of Times Square/Piccadilly Circus) and the tendency for crowds to gather about foreign visitors I did not attempt to collect in this area. The dragonflies were probably breeding in a lake in the official offices and residences section of the old Imperial Palace.

At the Great Wall just north of Peking half a dozen *Pantala flavescens* were observed flying and gliding just out of reach above the corner of a watchtower.

When my interest in dragonflies became known I received considerable assistance from the translators and guides of the China Internal Travel Service and also from members of

Hangchow University.

List of species. — Platycnemididae: *Copera annulata* Sel. (Hangchow), *Platycnemis phyllopoda* Djak. (Hangchow). — Coenagrionidae: *Agriocnemis femina oryzae* Lieft. (Hangchow), *A. pygmaea* (Ramb.) (Canton), *Cercion calamorum* Ris (Hangchow), *Ceriagrion nipponicum* Asahina (Hangchow), *C. latericum ryukyuanum* Asahina (Canton), *Ischnura senegalensis* (Ramb.) (Canton); — Gomphidae: *Ictinogomphus clavatus* (Fabr.) (Hangchow), *I. pertinax* (Sel.) (Canton); — Aeshnidae: *Anax guttatus* (Burm.) (Canton); — Libellulidae: *Acisoma panorpoides* Ramb. (Hangchow), *Brachydiplax chalybea flavovittata* Ris (Hangchow), *Brachythemis contaminata* (Fabr.) (Canton), *Neurothemis t. tullia* (Dru.) (Canton), *Orthemis albistylum speciosum* (Uhler) (Canton), *O. sabina* (Dru.) (Canton), *Potamarcha congener* (Ramb.) (Hangchow), *Pseudothemis zonata* (Burm.) (Hangchow), *Rhyothemis fuliginosa* Sel. (Hangchow).

I thank WU PAO-CHIN, CHOU SONG-PAI and KANG CHEN-WU of the China Internal Travel Service for help while in China, also the local guides and translators in Hangchow. Dr J.A.L. WATSON and Dr S. ASAHINA kindly checked and corrected some of my identifications.

R. J. Rowe, Department of Zoology, University of Canterbury, Christchurch-1, New Zealand.