

to the Zoological Survey of India, but enquiry revealed that most of the types could not be traced, possibly lost by flood damage during wartime storage".

Most of the types of Odonata, originally in the Pusa Collection, were presented to the British Museum (Natural History) in 1925 (KIMMINS, 1966, cf. above). Ten years later (1934), due to a disastrous earthquake, the Pusa Collection was shifted from Pusa, Bihar, to New Delhi. In 1947, upon the partition of British India, a part of the collection was transferred to Pakistan (cf. M.G.R. MENON & S. GHAI, 1979, in: V.K. Gupta, Ed., *Workshop on advances in insect taxonomy in India and the Orient*, Manali, H.P., pp. 25-27. Assoc. Study Oriental Insects, New Delhi).

The collection in New Delhi is still very impressive. Material of 120 genera and 350 species is included, nearly all identified by Fraser in the beginning of his odonatological career, around 1920. Some species still have names apparently never published, and some have labels stating "Cotype" or "used for drawing". The collection is pinned and kept in drawers in an airconditioned room.

The type material of several Indian species described by Fraser, most of them before 1925, has not yet been traced (cf. Kimmins). Part of this material may still be in the Pusa Collection.

An up-to-date list of all species of Odonata in the collection is in preparation by Dr Swaray Ghai, Department of Entomology, Taxonomy Division, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi-110012, India.

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#### THE FATE OF THE ODONATA OF THE NATIONAL PUSA COLLECTION, NEW DELHI

At several places in F.C. Fraser's odonate monograph in the "Fauna of British India" series (1933-1936) it is stated that type, paratypes or specimens are in the Pusa collections and/or in the Indian Museum. According to D.E. KIMMINS (1966, *Bull. Br. Mus. nat. Hist.* [Ent.]18:223, footnote) "The entomological collections [originally in the Indian Museum] were subsequently transferred