

**EXOTIC DRAGONFLIES IMPORTED
ACCIDENTALLY WITH AQUARIUM
PLANTS TO FINLAND**

Very little has been written on accidentally imported dragonflies (e.g. P.P. CALVERT, 1912, *Ent. News* 23: 483; M.A. LIEFTINCK, 1978, *Ent. Ber., Amst.* 38: 145-150, 163; D.R. PAULSON, 1978, *Notul. odonatol.* 1: 9-10; D. AGASSIZ, 1981, *Entomologist's Gaz.* 32: 21-

-26, pl. 3), but no evidence was so far known from Finland. My acquaintance with imported exotic dragonflies began in October 1982 when Mr. P. Lehtinen, the owner of an aquarium shop phoned and told me that he had just found a damselfly larva in one of his aquariums in Tampere, Finland. The larva emerged on Oct. 18, 1982 and showed to be a *Pseudagrion microcephalum*, ♂. Since then I have received a dozen similar calls from the same shop. However, the breeding has not always ended as successfully as the first time. All cases are briefly reported here. Most of the larvae which failed to emerge were not identified.

Coenagrionidae — *Pseudagrion microcephalum* (Ramb.): 1 ♂ emerged 18-X-1982; 1 ♀ emerged 27-III-1983. The wing tips of both specimens were deformed. *Ischnura senegalensis* (Ramb.): 1 ♀ emerged 26-III-1983; 1 ♀ adult found dead in the aquarium shop 3-VI-1983; 1 ♂ adult found in the shop alive 13-VIII-1984. — Aeshnidae — *Anax guttatus* (Burm.): one larva died 6-X-1983; 1 ♂ larva died 4-V-1984 during moult; 1 ♂ emerged 16-VIII-1984; 1 ♀ larva died during emergence 24-VIII-1984. —

Libellulidae — Species 1 (indet.): one larva died 8-IV-1982 when it prepared to emerge. Species 2 (indet.): one dead larva was found in the shop 2-X-1982. *Orthetrum japonicum internum* McL.: 1 ♀ adult was found alive in the shop 29-X-1983. Its left side legs were deformed. Species 3 (indet.): one larva died during the emergence 3-VI-1984. *Neurothemis fluctuans* (Fabr.): 1 ♂ adult was found dead in the shop 14-XII-1984.

The Odonata in question have arrived to the aquarium shop as larvae (or eggs) within water plants from Singapore.

Dragonflies are certainly not such rare "imports" as the lack of previous records might suggest. Most of the larvae likely fall victim of aquarium fishes or water newts, or die during the moult, or during the emergence. These phases proved to be the most fatal in my breedings. However, now and then exotic dragonflies are on wing for a while in Finland.

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