

**SELYSIOTHEMIS NIGRA (VANDER L.)  
RECORDED FROM LA MANCHA (CUI-  
DAD REAL/ALBACETE), SPAIN (ANISO-  
PTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)**

On 2 and 3 August 1985, I visited the "Lagunas de Ruidera", a complex of lakes some 40 km E of Ciudad Real and 80 km W of Albacete, divided by the frontier between the two provinces of the same name. The Ruidera complex is situated in the southern part of the vast and very dry Mancha region. The lakes are permanent, in contrast to the (few) important waterbodies in the region (nature reserve "Tablas de Damiel" and some other shallow "Lagunas" in the NE), which dry out completely in late summer. Consequently, Ruidera represents an interesting dragonfly habitat within the Mancha region.

The lakes, belonging to the source of the Alto Guadiana river, extend over a length of 15 km ( $\pm$  800 m alt.), and communicate with each other by little waterfalls and small streamlets. The eastern lakes are shallow and mainly covered with reeds (*Phragmites australis*), in the West they are deeper and possess a much smaller vegetation border (1-4 m), often partly destroyed due to recreation. The water is very clear, calcareous and was at the moment of my visit 23-25° C.

I watched Odonata at the lake border (B) and some small streamlets (S); 17 species were observed: *Calopteryx xanthostoma* (>10, ♂, ♀, S), *C. h. haemorrhoidalis* (>10, ♂, ♀, S), *Lestes barbarus* (3 ♂, 1 ♀, B), *Ischnura graellsii* (abundant, B), *Coenagrion mercuriale* (>10, ♂, ♀, S, B), *C. scitulum* (>10, ♂, ♀, B), *Cercion lindeni* (2 ♂, B), *Enallagma cyathigerum* (abundant, B), *Platycnemis latipes* (abundant, S, B), *Ceragrion tenellum* (several, ♂, ♀, B), *Onychogomphus uncaus* (2 ♂, S), *Orthetrum brunneum* (abundant, S), *Crocothemis erythraea* (abundant, S), *Sympetrum fonscolombi* (5 ♂, ♀, B), *Selysiotthemis nigra* (4 ♂, 1 ♀, B), *Trithemis annulata* (2 ♂, B) and *Anax parthenope* (abundant).

The presence of *S. nigra* is particularly interesting. Several ♂ and one ♀ were observed on the same spot, flying from near the lake border to some 15 meters over the dry bank. Very typical was their "hovering" during which they

remained for some time  $\pm$  2.5 m above the ground, then suddenly flying away to start hovering again several meters further. It made them very difficult to catch! Sometimes they were resting on bushes at the bank, lifting their abdomen in a steep angle, a known behaviour at high temperatures (39° C in the shadow). I also saw them flying over the reed vegetation for short periods.

*S. nigra* is mainly an eastern mediterranean and eastern species (A. COMPTE SART, 1960, *Graellsia* 18: 73-115; — 1965, *Publins Inst. Biol. apl., Barcelona* 39: 33-64; — J. AGUILAR et al., 1985, *Guide des libellules d'Europe et d'Afrique du Nord*, Delachaux & Niestlé, Neuchâtel-Paris). Few data are known from the Iberian Peninsula. A. BENITEZ MORERA (1950, *Los odonatos de España*, Inst. Esp. Ent., Madrid) reports data from the provinces of Teruel and Lerida, A. COMPTE SART (1961, *Miscelánea zool.* 1: 43-45; — 1965, cf. above) mentions observations from Alcañiz (Teruel), Anglesola (Lerida) (probably similar to those given by Benitez Morera) and from the isle of Mallorca (Balears) (Palma and Albufera de Alcudia). M. FERRERAS ROMERO & V. PUCHOL CABALLERO (1984, *Los insectos odonatos en Andalucía*, Serv. Publins Univ. Córdoba) give recent data in Andalucía from only 3 localities, all permanent but shallow waterbodies (Laguna de Zoñar, Desembocadura del Guadalhorce and Laguna de la Colonia de Santa Ines). Taken into account the few recent data in the Iberian Peninsula and its general rareness in the western part of the mediterranean basin (cf. C. UTZERI & C. BELFIORE, 1976, *Fragm. ent.* 12: 169-172), our observations in Ruidera seem to be an interesting addition to the knowledge on the distribution of this species.

A. Anselin, Laboratorium voor Oecologie der Dieren, Rijksuniversiteit Gent, Ledeganckstraat 35, B-9000 Gent, Belgium.