

PREDATION BY ADULT *ERYTHEMIS SIMPLICICOLLIS* (SAY) ON SPIDERS (ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)

I have found only one previous record of adult Anisoptera feeding on spiders: A. WARREN (1915, *Coll. Hawaii Publ. Bull.* 3: 33-34) cites two observations for *Pantala flavescens* (Fabr.).

During august, 1978, I observed a halfgrown specimen of the jumping spider *Phidippus pulcherrimus* Keyserling on a fence post along the edge of a pasture in southeast Gainesville, Florida, USA. I captured the spider and was observing it when it jumped from my hand, trailing a dragline behind it. Before it reached the ground, it was caught in midair by *E. simplicicollis*. Apparently *E. simplicicollis* may associate with large animals and feed on insects disturbed by these animals (S.W. Dunkle, personal communication). In this case, I was the large animal and inadvertently I provided the prey.

Recently, I returned from a collecting trip to Jamaica, where on July 31, 1985, at Lazaretto, I captured another *E. simplicicollis* feeding on a freshly killed subadult female orbweaving spider, *Leucauge argyra* (Walckenaer). (My thanks to S.W. Dunkle for the dragonfly determinations). WARREN (op. cit.) believed his two records of predation on spiders were probably of

spiders hanging by threads (as happened to the *P. pulcherrimus* above). However, in the case of *L. argyra*, I believe the spider was taken directly from the web by the dragonfly. The reason I believe this is that I captured several of the spiders, and their escape reaction was to run the nearest web frame thread and attempt to hide under leaves of the plant to which the thread was attached. They did not fall out of the web attached to a dragline as do some orb weavers.

G.B. Edwards, Arachnologist, Florida State Collection of Arthropods, Division of Plant Industry, P.O. Box 1269, Gainesville, FL 32602, United States.