

#### ODONATA HOARDING FOOD

In the frame of my study of the morphological colour changes and the female polymorphism of adult *Ischnura e. elegans*, I kept a stock of live Odonata under laboratory conditions. The specimens were kept in open plastic boxes, the wings cut near the nodus, and fed with *Drosophila melanogaster*, presented to them with a forceps. (B.O.N. HINNEKINT, 1987, *Hydrobiologia*, 146: 3-31).

Feeding was accompanied by hoarding. The *I. elegans* specimens were fed once or twice a day only and accepted up to 4 *Drosophila specimens* at a time. Several prey items were chewed into a single meatball, kept under the mandibles, and slowly ingested afterwards.

The anisopteran *Sympetrum sanguineum* hoarded up to 8 *Drosophila* at a time, but kept the meatball inside its mouthparts instead of beneath them.

Regularly, Odonata (as *Orthetrum cancellatum*, *Sympetrum sanguineum* and *I. elegans*) were observed in natural conditions with such a meatball too, but it remains uncertain whether this was composed of a single or of several prey items.

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