

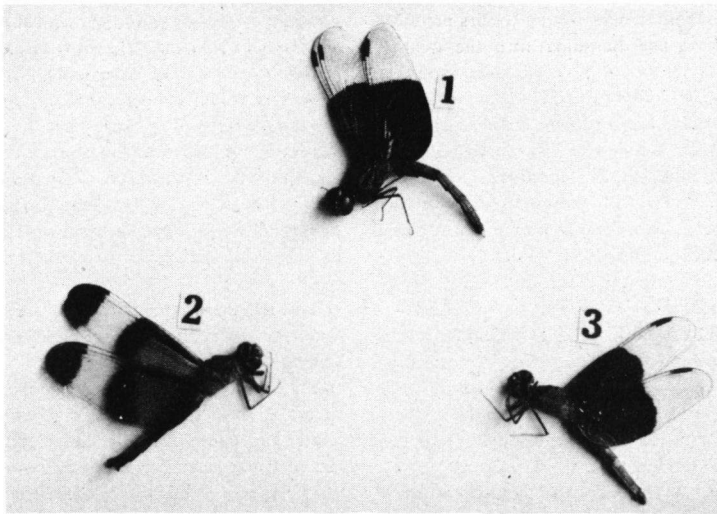
ON THE ANDROMORPHIC FEMALE
OF *NEUROTHEMIS T. TULLIA* (DRU.)
(ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)

Adult dragonflies are distinctly sexually dimorphic. Usually there is only one type of female. However, in some Indian (and other) genera female polymorphism has also been recorded (e.g. F.C. FRASER, 1934, *The fauna of British India, Odonata*, Vol. 2, Taylor & Francis, London), one female form being isomorphic to the male.

The males of 7 Indian members of the genus *Neurothemis* generally possess dark coloured wings, while the females are strikingly different; so much so that in some earlier works they have erroneously been described as different species. FRASER (cf. above) recorded the occurrence of hetero- and isomorphic females in *N. fulvia* (Dru.) and *N. fluctuans* (Fabr.), but there are no records of female polymorphism in other Indian *Neurothemis* species. Recently the author has collected an andromorphic female of *N. t. tullia* (Fig. 3), which differs markedly from the usual heteromorphic form (Fig. 2) and looks exactly like the male (Fig. 1). It is being described here.

Measurements (in mm): abdomen 17-18, hind wing 22-23.

Body coloured and marked as in male. Head blackish-brown; prothorax, thorax and abdomen black; blackish-brown in teneral individuals. Wings similar to male, hyaline for apical half, opaque steally blue-black for basal half, extending up to nodus in hind wing and one cell distal to nodus in fore wing; a broad opalescent white band bordering the black area in both wings, broad towards costa, narrowing posteriorly. Pterostigma ochreous, bordered with black nervures. Legs black, yellow on extensor surface. Anal appendages white, dark brownish at tips.



Figs 1-3. (Drury): (1) Male; — (2) Heteromorphic female; — (3) An-dromorphic female.

It differs from the heteromorphic female (which is characterized by broad black wing apices and a sickle-shaped, black-brown band on basal half) in body colour, markings and wing coloration. The andromorphic individuals are very rare in the field.

Material: 1 ♀ (in copula), at a pond, Sa-haspur, Dehra Dun, 3-IX-1983 (A. Kumar coll.). A number of other, identical female specimens are in the Zoological Survey of India collections, Dehra Dun.

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