

**ORTHETRUM SABINA (DRU.) FEEDING  
ON THE POWERFUL SKIPPER BUT-  
TERFLY *CAPRONA RANSONNETTI*  
*POTIPHERA* HEWITSON IN SOUTH  
INDIA (ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE;  
LEPIDOPTERA: HESPERIIDAE)**

During a visit to Nadgani Ghat, in the rainforest zone of the South Indian Nilgiri Mountains in October of 1986 I came across a dragonfly eating the left forewing of the large skipper butterfly *Caprona ransonnetti potiphera* Hewitson. The dragonfly has kindly been identified as *Orthetrum sabina* (Dru.) by Stephen Brooks at the British Museum (Natural History).

This particular skipper is one of the most powerful and fast flying of all the butterflies in the area and I am surprised that such a relatively small dragonfly should have been able to catch and to subdue such a vigorous prey. It is much smaller than *Orthetrum austeni* (Kirby) which is specialised on butterflies in Nigeria (T.B. LARSEN, 1981, *Notul. odonatol.* 1: 130-131).

When I saw the specimen it was devouring the left forewing of the butterfly. This is surprising since the Nigerian species invariably let the wings fall to the ground after having bitten them off.

T.B. Larsen, 29 C Snoghøj alle, DK-2770  
Kastrup, Denmark.