

A TAXONOMIC NOTE ON *ELGA* RIS, WITH
E. NEWTONSANTOSI NOM. NOV. FOR *E.*
LEPTOSTYLA MACHADO, 1954 (ANISOP-
TERA: LIBELLULIDAE)

In 1954, I visited the laboratory of Professor Newton Santos in the National Museum in Rio de Janeiro for training in dragonfly taxonomy, and took with me specimens of the "monotypic" genus *Elga*, collected at Açucena, Minas Gerais. This species proved to be different from another in the Museum collection, collected in Pirassununga, Sao Paulo, which had been identified as *Elga leptostyla*, Ris, 1911. The species from Minas Gerais was described as *Elga santosi* in a paper in which the species believed to be *E. leptostyla* Ris, was also described and illustrated (A.B.M. MACHADO, 1954, *Revta. brasil. Biol.* 14: 303-312).

During a visit to the Paris Museum I had the opportunity to study the holotype of *E. leptostyla* Ris, which is deposited in Martin's collection there. The specimen was in very good condition and corresponded well to the description given by RIS (1911, *Collns zool. de Selys-Longchamps* 12: 385-528), except for the fact that the subtriangle has two cells in the left wing whereas the description stated that it is free in both wings, as shown in Ris's fig. 245. The study of this type showed clearly that the species I had described as *E. santosi* was in fact *E. leptostyla* Ris and what I had "redescribed" as *E. leptostyla* was actually a new species which, therefore, remains unnamed. In view of this fact *Elga santosi* Machado, 1954 should be regarded as a synonym of *Elga leptostyla* Ris, 1911 and the new species is now named *Elga newtonsantosi* nom. nov. after my master Professor Newton Dias dos Santos, the father of Brazilian odonatology (A.B.M. MACHADO & J.M. COSTA, 1990, *Odonatologica* 19: 297-308). The description and the illustrations of this species (under *E. leptostyla*) contained in my paper of 1954 (MACHADO, 1954, op.cit.) are accurate and allow for its easy separation from true *E. leptostyla* which is redescribed in the same paper (under *E. santosi*). I designate now a male specimen in my collection (Ribeirão S. Vicente, Pirassununga,

São Paulo, 1/15-XII-1948, N. Santos & J.P. Machado leg.) as a holotype for the new species. The other 12 male and a single female specimens, mentioned (under *E. leptostyla*) in my paper of 1954, all collected at the same locality as the holotype, should be regarded as paratypes. They are deposited in the collection of the National Museum, Rio de Janeiro, (10 ♂, 1 ♀) and in my own collection (2 ♂).

It is worth noting that in the 37 years that elapsed since *E. newtonsantosi* was recorded in Pirassununga, São Paulo, (MACHADO, 1954, op.cit.) no additional material of this species has appeared in my own collection, this in marked contrast to *E. leptostyla* which has been regularly collected in different parts of Brazil over the years. It seems, therefore, that *E. newtonsantosi* is rarer and has a considerably more restricted geographical distribution than *E. leptostyla*. The following list of localities in which *E. leptostyla* has been collected, based on material in my collection, gives an idea of its distribution in Brazil.

M i n a s G e r a i s: Florestal, 1 ♂, 30-XII-88; 1 ♀, 28-X-84, P.A. + A.B. Machado leg.; - Lagoa Santa, 1 ♀, XII-80, Valle & Machado leg.; - Caratinga, 1 ♂, I-76, Inácio leg.; - **P a r á:** Belém, 1 ♂, II-84, Machado leg.; - Obidos, 1 ♀, 29-IX-61, B. Ferreira leg.; - Cachimbo, 1 ♂, 1 ♀, X-55, Pereira leg.; - Jacareacanga, 1 ♀, X-59 Alvarenga leg.; - Tiriós, 1 ♂, II-63, Machado & Pereira leg.; - Fordlandia, 1 ♂, II-57, Machado & Pereira leg. - **A m a p á:** Serra do Navio, 1 ♂, I-57, Machado & Pereira leg. - **G o i á s:** Aragarças, 1 ♂, I-55, Alvarenga leg. - **M a t o G r o s s o:** Sinop, 1 ♂, X-1975, Alvarenga leg.; - Diamantino, 1 ♂, XII-85, E. Furtado leg.

I would like to thank Professor JEAN LEGRAND for allowing me to examine the type of *Elga leptostyla* at the Paris Museum.

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