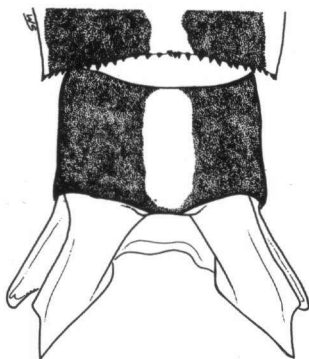


**GOMPHUS PULCHELLUS SEL. NEW TO THE
ITALIAN ODONATE FAUNA (ANISOPTERA:
GOMPHIDAE)**

1984, one of us (W. Sch.) found a male dragonfly specimen labeled "*Gomphus pulchellus* De Sétys Rambur, Pedemontio". This specimen is preserved in box number 8 of V. Ghiliani's collection, a prominent Italian entomologist of the last century who is probably also the collector of the specimen. The collection is preserved in the Museo Civico e Istituto di Zoologia dell'Università, Turin, Italy. Even though the label gives no



**Fig. 1. Dorsal view of male anal appendages of
Gomphus pulchellus from Piemonte, Italy.**

further information on date and locality of capture, "Pedemontio" is the old name for a region in northeastern Italy, now named Piemonte (Piedmont). The anal appendages of this specimen are reproduced in Figure 1.

Gomphus pulchellus is a western European species which is quite common in Portugal, Spain and southern France; it becomes rarer in north/northeastern France, Belgium, the Netherlands, in western Switzerland and in the northern and western parts of Germany (R.R. ASKEW, 1988, *The dragonflies of Europe*, Harley, Colchester), while it occurs locally in eastern Switzerland (KIAUTA, B. & M. KIAUTA, 1986, *Ber. bot.-zool. Ges. Liechtenstein-Sargans-Werdenberg* 15: 127-136) and in Liechtenstein (J. BIEDERMANN, 1990, *ibid.* 18: 219-233).

The species is also known from Austria (E. GÄCHTER, 1988, *Notul. odonatol.* 3: 6-8), but its easternmost record is Rabac (45°06'N/14°11'E) in Istria, Croatia (W. SCHNEIDER, 1984, *Ent. Z.* 94: 109-111). The single record for Romania (F. CIRDEI & F. BULIMAR, 1965, *Fauna Rep. Pop. Române* 7/5, *Odonata*, Acad. Rep. Pop. Române, Bucuresti) is doubtful (cf. ASKEW, 1988, *op. cit.*). Mountains probably represent ecological and/or physical barriers for this species, as indicated by its absence from the Pyrenees and the Alps. GÄCHTER (1988, *op. cit.*) stresses that Austrian records are all pre-alpine. Although the easternmost (pre-alpine!) populations of *G. pulchellus* almost reach the Italian border, there is no record of the species from Italy, it is not even mentioned in F. CAPRA & P. GALLETTI's review of the dragonflies of Piemonte and the Aosta valley (1978, *Ann. Mus. civ. Stor. nat. Genova* 82: 1-71).

The invasion of central Europe by *G. pulchellus* probably started during the last century from its centre of distribution in France (R. RUDOLPH, 1980, *Drosera* 2: 63-66). As Ghiliani's specimen was also collected in the last century, dispersal probably also occurred into Italy or even further eastward. The single record and the lack of more recent data suggest that no stable population was established in Italy.

The present record increases the number of known species of Italian Odonata from 87 to 88; this includes *Ischnura graellsii* (Rambur, 1842) from Sardinia (E. BURMEISTER, 1989,

NachrBl. bayer. Ent. 38(3): 80-83) and *Ischnura fountainei* Morton, 1905 from Pantelleria, Sicily (H. LOHMANN, 1989, *Notul. odonatol.* 3: 61).

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