

**ONA SMALL ODONATE COLLECTION MADE IN FEBRUARY 1995 IN TAMIL NADU AND KERALA, SOUTHERN INDIA**

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**Abstract** – 28 spp. are listed from 8 localities. *Brachydiplax c. chalybea* Br. was so far not reported from southern India. The Moyar R. in the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary & National Park (Tamil Nadu) represents the southernmost known locality of *Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (Ramb.).

**Introduction**

During 12-22 February 1995, 28 dragonfly species, referable to 6 families, were collected at 5 localities in Tamil Nadu and at 3 localities in Kerala. Since little is known on the odonate fauna of southern India, it seems worthwhile to bring them here on record.

The material was identified after FRASER (1934-1936) and the nomenclature is that of DAVIES & TOBIN (1984-1985).

All specimens are in the Author's collection.

**List of localities**  
T a m i l N a d u

- (1) Madras: Snake park, alt. 50 m; 12-II-1995;
- (2) Mamallapuram: water tank, 15 km S E of the town, alt. 50 m; 14-II-1995;
- (3) Tiruchirappalli (Trichy): Cauveri R, ca 0.7 km S of the Srirangam Temple, alt. 100 m; 15-II-1995;
- (4) Theppakadu, Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park: on the Moyar R., ca 0.5 km NE from the village, alt. 1100 m:
  - (a) 16-II-1995;
  - (b) 17-II-1995;
- (5) Uthagamandalam (Ooty): on the hill stream, crossing the Theppakadu-Uthagamandalam road, ca 20 km N of the town, alt. 1600 m; 18-II-1995;

**K e r a l a**

- (6) Trivandrum: swampy area, ca 0.5 km W of the bridge on the Thiruvallam-Kovalam road, alt. 50 m; 21-II-1995;
- (7) Trivandrum: swampy areas on both sides of the Thiruvallam-Kovalam road, alt. 50 m; 22-II-1995;

- (8) Kovalam (Trivandrum): village beach nr the lighthouse, alt. 0 m; 22-II-1995.

#### Species recorded

**C a l o p t e r y g i d a e:**  
*Neurobasis c. chinensis* (L.): 4b (1 ♂, 1 ♀).

**C h l o r o c y p h i d a e:**  
*Rhinocypha bisignata* Sel.: 4b (3 ♂, 4 ♀, incl. 1 ♀ juv.).

**C o e n a g r i o n i d a e:**  
*Agriocnemis pygmaea* (Ramb.): 2 (2 ♀), 4b (1 ♀); - *Ischnura a. aurora* (Br.): 2 (5 ♂, 2 ♀), 4b (1 ♂), 6 (1 ♂); - *I. senegalensis* (Ramb.): 2 (1 ♂); - *Ceriatrion coromandelianum* (Fab.): 6 (2 ♂, 1 ♀); - *Pseudagrion decorum* (Ramb.): 2 (1 ♂); - *P. malabaricum* Fraser: 6 (1 ♂); - *P. rubriceps* Sel.: 3 (1 ♂), 4b (2 ♂).

**P l a t y c n e m i d i d a e:** *Copera marginipes* (Ramb.): 4b (1 ♂).

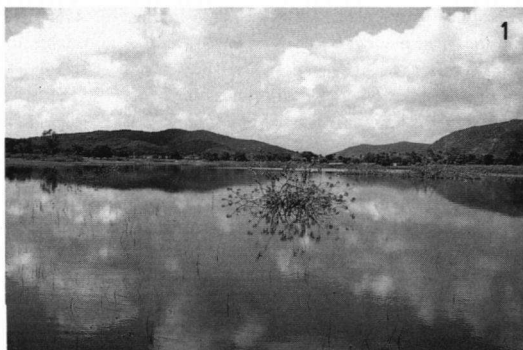
**P r o t o n e u r i d a e:**  
*Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (Ramb.): 4b (2 ♂); - *Prodasineura verticalis annandalei* (Fraser): 4b (1 ♂).

**A e s h n i d a e:** *Anax immaculifrons* Ramb.: 5 (2 ♀, ovip.).

**L i b e l l u l i d a e:** *Acisoma p. panorpoidea* Ramb.: 6 (1 ♀); - *Brachydiplax c. chalybea* Br.: 7 (1 ♂); - *Brachythemis contaminata* (Fab.): 4a (1 ♀), 4b (1 ♂), 6 (4 ♂), 7 (2 ♂); - *Bradinyoga geminata* (Ramb.): 1 (1 ♀); - *Crocothemis s. servilia* (Dru.): 6 (2 ♂, incl. 1 ♂ juv., 2 ♀); - *Diplacodes trivialis* (Ramb.): 8 (2 ♂, 3 ♀); - *Neurothemis t. tullia* (Dru.): 6 (1 ♂); - *O. s. sabina* (Dru.): 3 (3 ♂), 6 (2 ♂), 7 (1 cop.), 8 (1 ♂); - *Pantala flavescens* (Fab.): 7 (1 ♀); - *Rhyothemis v. variegata* (L.): 6 (4 ♂); - *Tholymis tillarga* (Fab.): 4a (17 ♂, 2 ♀); - *Trithemis aurora* (Burm.): 4b (1 ♂); - *T. festiva* (Ramb.): 4b (4 ♂, 1 ♀), 5 (2 ♂); - *T. pallidinervis* (Kirby): 2 (1 ♂, juv.); - *Urothemis s. signata* (Ramb.): 1 (1 ♀), 6 (1 ♂), 7 (1 ♂, 3 ♀).

#### Discussion

There are only few recent reports on the odonate



Figs 1-2. Two of the Tamil Nadu localities visited, general aspect: (1) Water tank, 15 km SE of Mamallapuram (Loc. 2); - (2) The Moyar River, in the Mudumalai Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park (Loc. 4), the habitat of *Disparoneura quadrimaculata* (Ramb.).

fauna of southern India, e.g. LARSEN (1989), MATHAVAN & MILLER (1989), MILLER (1992), PRASAD (1987), THOMAS & GLADSTONE (1989), etc. Not unlike the present note, they mostly deal with the common and widespread taxa. The records of 2 species in the foregoing list, however, appear of some general interest.

*Disparoneura quadrimaculata*. - It is known from Central India, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh and Western Ghats (PRASAD & VARSHNEY, 1995), as far S as Kanara and Coorg, and does not appear to breed below 500 m altitude (FRASER, 1933). Our locality at the Moyar R. lies some 90 km S of the known range, which obviously extends to the Nilgiri Hills. The adults have been so far taken between May and September (FRASER, 1933; TYAGI & MILLER, 1991),

therefore the present record is of some interest from the phenological point of view as well.

*Brachydiplax c. chalybea*. – The species has been described from the Philippines; it occurs throughout the Oriental Region, in India it has been reported from Assam and West Bengal (PRASAD & VARSHNEY, 1995). The Kerala record represents the westernmost known locality, and it is the first record from southern India. According to LIEFTINCK (1954), in Malaysia the species is mainly confined to lowlands. It prefers forest marshes, but breeds also in ponds, slow flowing streams, mangrove swamps, etc.

Since the times of FRASER (1933-1936), very little has been done in the field of dragonfly exploration of southern India. While he produced the evidence on the regional occurrence of over 140 species, during the past five decades fresh records became available for hardly anything like 50 species. Many taxa continue to remain known from type specimens only. With the progressing habitat destruction, the threat of the extinction of ecologically specialised, to small geographic areas confined taxa is ever increasing. Consequently, an early, serious survey of the odonate fauna of southern India is becoming more and more imperative.

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