

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF DRAGONFLIES OF THE ISLAND OF CRES, CROATIA

The island of Cres is the place of venue of the 3rd Odonatological Symposium of the Alps-Adriatic Regional Community (18-24 July 1998), therefore it is considered opportune to present here a preliminary checklist of its known odonate fauna. It is the objective, the list will be completed during the Symposium Field Trips and during the Post-Symposium Field Workshop, whereupon a full-fledged fauna will be published.

The island of Cres (surface 404.33 km²) is a part of the Cres-Lošinj Archipelago (514 km², coastlines 482 km, length 85 km, width 30 km), situated between 14°17'-14°40'E and 44°78'-45°70'N. The latter is the largest archipelago in the Adriatic, consisting of a group of smaller, inhabited islands, a number of uninhabited islets, and of 28 rocks and reefs.

By the 45th parallel, the Archipelago is divided into a submediterranean and an eumediterranean part. The mild Mediterranean climate is characterised by warm and dry summers and rainy winters, with ca 2500 sunshine hours and ca 200 clear days

per year. At Cres, the mean temperatures are 6.6°C in winter, and 22.6°C in summer; the mean annual precipitation amounts to 900 mm.

Due to the karstic character of the island, it has but one (and very short) permanent stream (in the Jadrišćica cove, highly influenced by the tide). There are several minor springs and temporary torrents. The numerous lentic habitats include the oligotrophic freshwater Lake Vrana (length 5.5 km, width 1.5 km), various natural, seminatural and man-made, mostly eutrophic pools and ponds, marshes, coastal (mostly brackish) lagoons and some watertanks in the abandoned settlements.

The odonate fauna of the 1186 Croatian islands is only fragmentarily known. This certainly is true of the island of Cres as well. So far, 14 species were recorded by D. ST. QUENTIN (1944, *Verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien* 90/91: 66-67), M.E. FRANCISCOLO (1978, *Acta ent. jugosl.* 14: 35-47), M. FRANKOVIĆ (1966, in: A. Randić, [Ed.], *Plan gospodarenja okolišem Cresko-Lošinskog otočja*, p. 31, St. Direct. Envir., Rijeka) and G. SUŠIĆ & V. TUTIŠ (1996, *Lokve, ekološki dragulji otoka Cresa*, Svanimir, Zagreb & Caput insulae, Rijeka). In the following list, 3 species (asterisked, *) are added:

Chalcolestes viridis (Vander L.)*, – *Sympecma fusca* (Vander L.)*, – *Coenagrion puella* (L.), – *C. scitulum* (Ramb.), – *Erythromma viridulum* (Charp.), – *Ischnura elegans* (Vander L.), – *Aeshna affinis* Vander L., – *A. cyanea* (Müll.), – *Anax imperator* Leach, – *Cordulia aenea* (L.), – *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé), – *Libellula depressa* L., – *Orthetrum cancellatum* (L.), – *Sympetrum meridionale* (Sel.)*, – *S. sanguineum* (Müll.), and *S. striolatum* (Charp.).

In view of the pronounced habitat diversity, several additional species are with certainty expected. Thorough surveys are particularly needed of Vrana Lake and of various brackish marshes and lagoons.

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