

During a herpetological field trip in the Chinese province of Xinjiang, the second author took some photographs of a libellulid dragonfly which has been identified as *O. brunneum*.

The species was recorded on 8 July 1996 at a river near Toksun (Tuokexiong), about 43°N, 88°E, South of the provincial capital, Urumqi. East of Toksun lies the famous Turpan Depression which, at 154 m below sea level, is the second deepest depression in the world. The river is perennial and has its source in eastern Tianshan. Its banks are lined for a few dozen meters only, with sparse vegetation and then the land turns abruptly into stony desert. During the visit, the river was heavily laden with silt and coloured yellowish-brown.

The visit took place in the late morning when it was hot and dry. *O. brunneum* was widespread in the vegetation on the main river bank, but the biggest concentration was at a small tributary with rich vegetation, which was probably the breeding place of the species (Fig. 1). This slow-flowing brook was also the larval habitat of a population of the *Bufo viridis* complex (Bufonidae). Innumerable froglets inhabited the surroundings of the brook. Two species of reptile were also found near the water, *Stellio stoliczkanus* (Agamidae) and *Eremias multiocellata* (Lacertidae). No other drag-

**ORTHETRUM BRUNNEUM (FONSC.) FROM  
NORTHWESTERN XINJIANG, CHINA (AN-  
ISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)**

only species was noted.

*O. brunneum* is widespread throughout Eurasia, from the westernmost parts of Iberia (A.F. DE SEABRA, 1937, *Mem. Estud. Mus. zool. Univ. Coimbra* [1] 104: 1-14) to the Chinese Far East (S. ASAHINA, 1949, *Mushi* 20[2]: 27-35, 2 pls excl.). It is a southerly species, and the southernmost part of the range (about 25°N) extends to the Indian subcontinent (T.R. MITRA, 1996, *Opusc. zool. flumin.* 141: 1-6). Our record fills the gap between the River Ili in E Kazakhstan (B.F. BELYSHEV, 1961, *Fragm. faun.* 9[4]: 27-42, 1 pl. excl.), Hami (= Chami) in E Xinjiang (F. FOERSTER, 1900, *Wien. ent. Ztg* 19[10]: 253-267, 1 pl. excl.) and the Mongolian Gobi (V.N. KRYLOVA, 1974, *Insects of Mongolia* 4[2]: 14-22). These localities mark the northern limit of the range in Central Asia which is not likely to exceed 45°N in this region. However, there is an old record by H. HAGEN (1856, *Stettin. ent. Ztg* 17: 363-381) further North at about 52°N, at Irkutsk/Siberia, but this has never been confirmed (B.F. BELYSHEV, 1973, *The dragonflies of Siberia [Odonata]*, Vol. 1[1], Nauka,

Novosibirsk). In eastern Asia, Chengde (= Jehol) is, at 41°N, the most northerly record (S. ASAHINA, 1949, *l.c.*; 1978, *Kontyü* 46[2]: 234-252). In Europe, breeding populations sometimes exceed 52°N (S. MIELEWCZYK, 1979, *Notul. odonatol.* 1[4]: 59-61; P. JAHN, 1982, *LandschEntw. Umweltforsch.* 11: 297-310; P. SCHRIDDE, U. ANDERS & C. LINGNAU, 1993, *Braunschw. naturk. Schr.* 4[2]: 313-320).

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Fig. 1. The habitat of near  
Toksun, Xinjiang. Many libellulid larvae which  
most probably belonged to this species, inhabited  
the brook.