

ODONATOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THREE TRIPS TO NEW SOUTH WALES, AUSTRALIA

Fleeing the European winter for several weeks each year in 1994/95, 95/96 and 96/97, I always took up residence at the Log Cabin Inn, Penrith, some 60 km W of Sydney, situated by the Nepean River, which is a good place for visitors of the "Blue Mountains", a rocky elevation with steep valleys. The subtropical region is much less arid compared to the central parts of Australia. Annual precipitation amounts to about 1,250 mm. In January and February some hot days may push the mercury up to more than 35°C.

Without a net I could furnish evidence only of those dragonflies which had been photographed. Prof. G. Theischinger kindly checked the identification of all my photographs, also those of the preceding years. The nomenclature follows J.A.L. WATSON, G. THEISCHINGER & H.M. ABBEY (1991, *The Australian dragonflies*. CSIRO, Canberra - Melbourne).

In the Glenbrook National Park I visited the not really stagnant water bodies "Jelly-Bean-Pool" and "Blue Pool", where *Austroagrion watsoni*, *Austroargiolestes isabellae*, *Aeshna brevistyla*, *Austrogomphus cornutus*, *A. ochraceus*, *Choristhemis flavoterminata*, *Cordulephya montana* (wings often in a sagittal position), *Orthetrum caledonicum*, *O. villosovitatum*, and *Diplacodes bipunctata* could be evidenced.

In the same settlement of Glenbrook, outside the National Park, there is also the Glenbrook Lagoon, a large and probably shallow pond. Here I noticed *Hemicordulia australiae*, *Aethriamanta circumsignata*, *Orthetrum caledonicum*, *Nanno-*

*phya australiae*, and *Rhyothemis graphiptera*. Close to the Hazelbrook railway station I recorded *Eusynthemis tillyardi* in December 1995. Only five months earlier it has been described as a new species (G. THEISCHINGER, 1995. *Linz. biol. Beitr.* 27: 297-310).

One of the highlights of my 1997 trip was the exploration of the Hacking River banks in the Royal National Park, in a boat with G. Theischinger, and when, on another day, Mr Müller from Sydney steered us through many kilometres of the Blue Mountains. On the latter day we found at a pool close to the Restaurant "Where Waters Meet", about 10 km from Katoomba on the Mt Hay Road, *Austrolestes psyche*, *A. aridus* (?), *Argiolestes griseus*, *Aeshna brevistyla*, *Hemianax papuensis*, *Austrogomphus guerini*, *Procordulia jacksoniensis*, *Nannophya dalei*, *Synthemis eustalacta*, and *S. macrostigma orientalis*.

In February 1995 I took photographs of *Ictinogomphus australis* on the bank of the Nepean River at Penrith. I have not seen this northern species again. On the banks of the Nepean River I found exuviae of *Hemicordulia* sp. and *Hemianax papuensis*. Adult *Ischnura heterosticta*, *Nososticta solida*, *H. papuensis*, *Hemicordulia australiae*, *Orthetrum caledonicum*, and *O. villosovitatum* were also present.

In January 1997 I picked up exuviae of *Trapezostigma loewii* in a garden at Mulgoa, not far from Penrith. On the Jamison Creek, where Charles Darwin was during his voyage on HMS Beagle, I evidenced *Austrolestes isabellae*, *Synlestes weyersii*, *Diphlebia l. lestoides*, *Aeshna brevistyla*, *Austroaeschna subapicalis*, *Austrogomphus*

*ochraceus*, *A. guerini*, *Eusynthemis tillyardi*, *Hemicordulia australiae*, *H. tau*, *Orthetrum caledonicum*, *O. villosovittatum*, *Synthemis eustalacta*, *S. macrostigma orientalis*, and *Diplacodes haematodes*.

Not far from Blackheath, at Govett's Leap, I saw in December 1995 and in January 1997 *Austroagrion watsoni*, *Argiolestes griseus*, *Aeshna brevistyla*, *Austroaeshna obscura*, *A. subapicalis*, and *Diplacodes melanopsis*. G. Theischinger once was just in time to observe the emergence of *Petalura gigantea* at the steep slopes of Govett's Leap! Eager to catch a glimpse of *P. gigantea*, I visited the "Fairy Falls" and the Long Swamp near Lawson. I am quite sure I once or twice saw the large dragonflies with the typical abdominal appendages. But they were flying and did not settle anywhere. Other species at this site were *Austroargiolestes isabellae*, *Synlestes weyersii*, *Aeshna brevistyla*, *Eusynthemis tillyardi*, *Hemicordulia australiae*, *Diplacodes bipunctata*, *Orthetrum caledonicum*, and *O. villosovittatum*.

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