

A NOTE ON AN ODONATA COLLECTION FROM ORISSA, INDIA

T.R. MITRA

Zoological Survey of India, M-Block, New Alipore, Calcutta-700 053, India

Abstract – 69 spp. are so far known from Orissa. No locality data were so far published for 11 of these; they are listed here, and the complete regional bibliography is provided.

Introduction

Orissa (17°49'-22°33'N, 81°27'-87°57'E) is a state in eastern India. Its hilly regions (Eastern Ghats) are connected with the peninsular uplands, the plains are reaching to the Bay of Bengal and merge with the Lower Ganga Plain (West Bengal). The tropical monsoon climate is characterized by high temperatures and medium-to-high rainfall throughout the summer. There are 3 types of forests, viz. tropical semi-evergreen, tropical moist-deciduous, and tropical deciduous forests.

Present records

So far, 69 odonate species were recorded by DASGUPTA (1957), FRASER (1921, 1933-1936), FRASER & DOVER (1922), LAHIRI & DAS (1991), LAIDLAW (1915), MITRA (1994, 1999), PRASAD & VARSHNEY (1995) and SRIVASTAVA & DAS (1987).

MITRA (1994) listed 11 species without

detailed collecting data. These are presented below.

The specimens were collected by various parties of the Zoological Survey of India, and are deposited at that institution, Calcutta.

PROTONEURIDAE

– *Caconeura gomphoides* (Ramb.)

7 ♂, Kotagarh, 10-V-1972. – The abdomens of 3 specimens are yellow, according to the late Dr M.A. Lieftinck (pers. comm.) they are atypical.

COENAGRIONIDAE

– *Pseudagrion r. rubriceps* Sel.

1 ♂, 1 ♀, Bolangir, 7-XI-1972

– *Ceriagrion cerinorubellum* (Br.)

1 ♂, Cuttack, 3-XI-1973

– *Ischnura rufostigma annandalei* Laidlaw

3 ♂, Bolangir, 5-X-1972; – 1 ♂, Sundergarh, 21-IX-1972

CHLOROCYPHIDAE

– *Rhinocypha bisignata* Sel.

2 ♂, Bolangir, 7-XI-1973; – 2 ♂, 1 ♀, Kotagarh, 24-V-1972

– *R. quadrimaculata* Sel.

5 ♀, Kotagarh, 4/5-V-1972. – The specimens agree with those from Darjeeling, Eastern

Himalaya.

AESHNIDAE

- *Hemianax ephippiger* (Burm.)
1 ♂, Cuttack, 30-X-1971; - 1 ♂, Gopalpur,
22-XI-1973

LIBELLULIDAE

- *Hylaeothemis fruhstorferi apicalis* Fraser
1 ♂, Kotagarh, 25-V-1972
- *Orthetrum luzonicum* (Br.)
1 ♂, 1 ♀, Bolangir, 8-XI-1973; - 1 ♀,
Kotagarh, 24-V-1972
- *O. t. testaceum* (Burm.)
1 ♂, Mayurohanj, 26-I-1966
- *Neurothemis intermedia atalanta* Ris
1 ♂, Sambalpur, 27-X-1973; 1 ♂, 1 ♀, same
locality, 7-XI-1972.

Note on *Enallagma insula* Fraser

This enigmatic species has been described from a single female specimen, from the Chilka Lake, Ganjam district (FRASER, 1920). The type is apparently lost.

Zoological Survey of India has undertaken several faunistic surveys, especially in the district of Ganjam, but no party was ever successful in collecting further specimens of this species. The authenticity and the status of *E. insula* remain uncertain.

Discussion

Disregarding *Enallagma insula*, and probably due to its geographical position, the state of Orissa does not support any endemic odonate species. All species are widely distributed, only *Caconeura*

gomphoides seems to be restricted to peninsular India.

Since the state is connected with the Lower Ganga Plain, the land bridge has been probably used in faunal exchange after the rise of the Himalaya.

Acknowledgements - For the facilities and encouragement, the author is thankful to Dr J.R.B. ALFRED (Director) and to Drs G.K. SRIVASTAVA, S.K. MITRA, J.K. JONATHAN and M. PRASAD, all of Zoological Survey of India. The late Dr M.A. LIEFTINCK examined the specimens, and Professor Dr B. KIAUTA provided some critical suggestions.

References - DASGUPTA, J., 1987, *Proc. zool. Soc. Calcutta* 10: 1-65; - FRASER, F.C., 1920, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 19(2): 31-33; - 1921, *J. Bombay nat. Hist. Soc.* 18: 107-122; - 1933-1936, *Fauna of British India, including Ceylon and Burma: Odonata*, Vols 1-3, Taylor & Francis, London; - FRASER, F.C. & C. DOVER, 1922, *Rec. Indian Mus.* 24: 303-311; - LAHIRI, A.R. & S. DAS, 1991, *Rec. zool. Surv. India* 89: 155-166; - LAIDLAW, F.F., 1915, *Mem. Indian Mus.* 5: 178-180; - MITRA, T.R., 1994, *Rec. zool. Surv. India* (Occ. Pap.) 166: 1-40, pls 1-3 excl.; - 1999, *ibidem* 170: 1-63; - PRASAD, M. & R.K. VARSHNEY, 1995, *Oriental Insects* 29: 385-428; - SRIVASTAVA, V.D. & S. DAS, 1987, *St. Fauna Ser. Zool. Surv. India* 1(1): 135-159.

Received January 7, 2000