

AN INTERESTING RECORD OF *CROCO-
THEMIS ERYTHRAEA* (BRULLÉ) IN MID-
WESTERN POLAND (ANISOPTERA: LIBEL-
LULIDAE)

On 26 August 1999, 1 ♂ of *C. erythraea* was collected (and 1 was sighted) in a gravel pit near Bielice, 9 km to the E of Rzepin, 52°21'10" N, 14°58'10" E. There were some ponds of various depth and transparency, but males only flew over and by a small strongly insolated shallow (to 30 cm) pond with clear water. Emergent vegetation was low, mainly along shores: *Sparganium emersum*, *Alisma plantago-aquatica*, *Mentha aquatica*, *Berula erecta*, some *Typha latifolia*; submerged vegetation: *Elodea canadensis*, fine Characeae. The habitat coincides with the preferences for sand and gravel pits noticed in Germany (J. OTT, 1996, *Naturschutz Landschaftspf. 28*: 53-61, 132). Among 16 other dragonfly species recorded in the gravel pit noteworthy were: *Erythromma viridulum*, *Sympetrum depressiusculum*, *S. striolatum*, *S. pedemontanum*. On 30 August there was no *C. erythraea*. So far *C. erythraea* has been recorded in Poland sporadically, in the South (Fig. 1): 1 probable and 3 certain records listed in A. CZEKAJ (1994, *Notul. odonatol. 4*(3): 53) and 2 enigmatic records, from Chorzów = Königshütte (R. TUMPEL, 1922, *Die Geradflügler Mitteleuropas*, Perthes, Gotha) and

Ojców (A. PONGRÁ CZ, 1923, *Arch. Naturgesch. (A)* 89(11): 244-259).

C. erythraea has been recorded in central Europe mainly in the southern parts but has reached even Belgium, the Netherlands, central Germany, the Czech Republic and Poland (J. AŠMERA & A. DOLNÝ, 1989, *Acta Fac. paedag. ostraviensis (E)* 117(19): 95-101; – A. CZEKAJ, 1994, *Notul. odonatol. 4*(3): 53; – M. WASSCHER, R. KETELAAR, M. VAN DER WEIDE, A. STROO, V. KALKMAN, N. DINGEMANSE, H. INBERG & I. TIELEMAN, 1995, *Verspreidingsgegevens van de Nederlandse libellen*, EIS - Nederland, Leiden; – N. MICHIELS, A. ANSELIN, P. GOFFART & M. VAN MIERLO, 1986, *Gomphus 3*(2): 1-34; – J. OTT, 1988, *Libellula 7*(1/2): 1-25, – 1996, *Naturschutz Landschaftspf. 28*: 53-61, 132). Part of more northerly records in central Europe probably concern only migrating individuals although in the last two decades also autochthonous populations have been known locally, as in W Germany (J. OTT, 1996, *l.c.*). Polish records, including the new one, concern rather individuals which flew from the South although a female collected by CZEKAJ (1994, *l.c.*) could belong to a local temporary population. The new Polish observation and the old ones from Brodowin, Brandenburg (C. BOLLOW, 1919, *Dt. ent. Z.* 1919: 191) are the northernmost records of *C. erythraea* in the eastern part of central Europe, far to the N from the other known localities there. The new record in Poland corresponds with the significantly increased frequency of the species records, recently

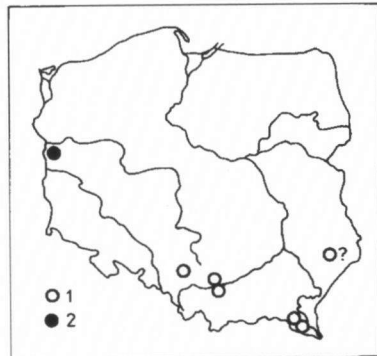


Fig. 1. Records of *C. erythraea* in Poland: (1) from literature, – (2) new, – (?) probable.

noticed in central Europe, which seems to show a tendency to broaden the species range (e.g. J.T. HERMANS & R.E.M.B. GUBBELS, 1997, *Brachytron* 1(1): 22-26; – G. DE KNIJF, 1995, *Libellennieuwsbrief* 3(4): 7-12; – B. MOCEK, 1998, *Acta Mus. reginaehradecensis* (A) 26: 27-37; – J. OTT, 1996, *l.c.*; W.E.R. XYLANDER, R. STEPHAN & R. FRANKE, 1998, *Abh. Ber. NaturkMus. Görlitz* 70(1): 37-46).

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