

ORTHETRUM COERULESCENS ANCEPS
(SCHNEIDER) AS A PREY OF LARVAL
MANTIS RELIGIOSA (L.) (ANISOPTERA:
LIBELLULIDAE; DICTYOPTERA: MANTO-
DEA)

In the framework of the Third Odonatological Symposium of the Alps-Adriatic Regional Community we have visited, on 23rd July 1998, the canyon of the Krupa River near Zadar, Croatia. It was a sunny but windy day, with the temperatures up to 30°C. At about noon we have spotted in the grassland close to the river a larval *M. religiosa*, hanging on a *Carex* and holding an adult *O. coerulescens anceps*, devouring its head.

It seems, this was an incidental prey, conditioned by the strong wind which prevented the dragonfly to fly.

There are several records of incidental mantid predation on dragonflies. For a recentmost photographic record see K. INOUE & K. TANI, (1999, *All about dragonflies*, Tombow, Osaka), and for a brief reference also P.S. CORBET (1999, *Dragonflies: behaviour and ecology of Odonata*, Harley Books, Colchester, p. 328).

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