

MAHÉ, THE SEYCHELLES

The odonate fauna of Mahé has been reviewed by R.A.A. BLACKMAN & E.C.G. PINHEY (1967, *Arnoldia, Rhod.* 3[12]: 1-38), who have reported 19 species from the island. In early May 2000, I had the opportunity to confirm the occurrence of 10 of these. They were evidenced at three localities, viz.:

- (a) a small lake in the southwestern part of the island, with rich shore, floating and submerse vegetation (spp. 1-10);
- (b) shady brooks in the same region (spp. 4, 7);
– and
- (c) ponds with waterlilies in the Botanic Gardens of Victoria, on the eastern coast of the island (spp. 2, 4, 7-10).

Species list:

- (1) *Agriocnemis pygmaea* (Ramb.)
- (2) *Ceriagrion glabrum* (Burm.)
- (3) *Ischnura senegalensis* (Ramb.)
- (4) *Anax guttatus* (Burm.)
- (5) *Diplacodes lefebvrei* (Ramb.)
- (6) *D. trivialis* (Ramb.)
- (7) *Orthetrum brachiale wrightii* (Sel.); listed by BLACKMAN & PINHEY, 1967, *ibid.*, as *O. stemmale wrightii*)
- (8) *Rhyothemis semihyalina* (Desj.)
- (9) *Tholymis tillarga* (Fabr.)
- (10) *Tramea limbata continentalis* (Sel.)

Of some interest is the record of *A. pygmaea*, of which it is said to occur only in isolated colonies on Mahé (cf. W.H. WAIN et al., 1999, *Notul. odonatol.* 5: 47-50). *R. hyalina* was the most abundant species. In *T. limbata continentalis*, a repeating, short-time tandem linkage, probably a guarding strategy in the face of approaching males, was often noticed. The grasping of the male's abdomen by females during tandem flight with their mid and hind legs, as described by A. MARTENS et al. (1997, *Odonatologica* 26: 477-482), could be confirmed in this species.

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