

**SELYSIOTHEMIS NIGRA (VANDER LINDEN, 1825) NEW FOR PORTUGAL (ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)**

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**Abstract** – 9 exuviae were found on 31-V-2003 near Faro, Algarve prov. This record represents the westernmost known site of *S. nigra*.

**Introduction**

During a vacation trip in May 2003 the author visited parts of the southern Portuguese provinces Algarve and Alentejo. While collecting Odonata exuviae near Faro, *Selysiothemis nigra* was found in the Nature park of Ria Formosa not far from the Algarve southeastern coast. The species is new to the Portuguese fauna.

**Observation of *Selysiothemis nigra* in Portugal**

While visiting the Nature park of Ria Formosa, 9 exuviae of *S. nigra* were found 6 km WNW from Faro and 0,3 km E from Ludo Farm (37°02'N, 7°59'W), at the alluvial floodplain of the Ribeira de Sao Lourenco, on 31-V-2003. The site is located about 4 km from the shore, within a system of tidal channels, salt marshes, lagoons and salinas, only a few meters above sea level. The exuviae were found in dense reed vegetation at a shallow brackish lake. The adults were not seen.

The keys and descriptions of CARCHINI (1983), CONESA GARCIA (1986), SEIDENBUSCH (1995), HAGEN (1996) and GERKEN & STERNBERG (1999) were used for identification.

At the same section of the brackish lake, exuviae of *Erythromma lindenii* (1), *E. viridulum* (3), *Ischnura graellsii* (2), *Aeshna mixta* (1), *Croco-*

*themis erythraea* (2) and *Trithemis annulata* (4) were found in dense reed vegetation (in brackets: number of collected exuviae), 4 adult *T. annulata* males were observed in the surroundings of the lake.

**Discussion**

*Selysiothemis nigra* was hitherto unknown from Portugal.

The known range of *S. nigra* extends from southern Europe and North Africa through the Middle East into central and southern Asia. It ranges East to NW China (Bachu, Sinkiang prov.; RIS, 1897) and to NW India (Dachigan, Jammu-Kashmir; CARFI et al., 1983). In North Africa it reaches westwards approximately 3°E (El Golea, Algeria; RIS, 1913; SAMRAOUI & MENAI, 1999). In southwestern Europe the species is widespread on the Balearic Islands (COMPTE SART, 1963; VON HAGEN, 1996) and in the Iberian Peninsula. In Spain it ranges from Catalonia (SELYS-LONGCHAMPS, 1878) and Aragon (NAVAS, 1924; GRAND, 1995) in the East and to 4°40'W in Andalusia (FERRERAS ROMERO, 1983) and 5°40'W in the Extremadura (JÖDICKE, 1996b). The site of Ludo in southern Portugal (8°W approx.) represents the westernmost known locality of the species. A review of the distribution of *S. nigra* is in preparation.

The present brackish water record is in agreement with the salinity tolerance of the species, as reported earlier (e.g. COMPTE SART, 1960).

In southern Europe *S. nigra* inhabits mostly brackish waters in coastal regions, in desert areas of North Africa, the Middle East and central Asia the species also prefers waters with at least temporarily elevated electrolyte-concentrations far from the shore.

**Acknowledgement** – Thanks are due to Prof.Dr A. MARTENS for his critical and helpful comments on the manuscript.

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*Received November 18, 2004*