A NOTE ON THE EXISTENCE OF ANDROCHROME FEMALES IN *CROCOTHEMIS SERVILIA* (DRU.) (ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)

Androchrome females have been reported in *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé) by M. KOTARAC (1996, *Notul. odonatol.* 4: 123-124; 1999, *Exuviae* 6: 19-20). P.S.CORBET (1999, *Dragonflies: ecology and behaviour of Odonata*, Harley Books, Colchester) observed that this may represent true polychromatism rather than reversible temperature-induced colour change. "Blushed females" of *C. erythraea* are mentioned in K.-D.B.DIJKSTRA (2006, *Field guide to dragonflies of Britain and Europe*, Wildlife Publishing, Gillingham). There appear to be no reports of androchrome females of *C. servilia*.

Mature *C. servilia* females in Sri Lanka have an ochreous thorax and an ochreous abdomen with a black mid-dorsal line on segments 2 to 10. Teneral and juvenile females are a brighter yellow. There are no reports of androchrome females from references in Hong Kong (K.D.P. WILSON, 1995, *Hong Kong dragonflies*, p. 175, Urban Council, Hong Kong), Peninsular Malaysia (A.G. ORR, 2005, *Dragonflies of Peninsular Malaysia and Singapure*, p. 105, Nat. Hist. Publs, Borneo), India (F.C. FRASER, 1936, *Fauna of British India, Ceylon and Burma: Odonata*, Vol. 3, p. 345) or Borneo (A.G. ORR, 2003, *Guide to the dragonflies of Borneo*, p. 125, Nat. Hist. Publs, Borneo), but Dr Matti Hämäläinen (pers. comm.) reports "that there are *C. servilia* females with reddish abdomens" in Thailand (photograph in ORR, 2003, *loc. cit.*, fig. 192).

On 20-X-2006, at Hammaliya Estate, Bandarakoswatte near Kurunegala, Sri Lanka, a red coloured *C. servilia* was photographed. One week later, closer inspection of the photograph revealed that the dragonfly was not a male as assumed but a female. The ovipositor is clearly visible in the photograph and the colouration is more like that of a young male (red with some yellow) than that of a mature male (bright red). *C. servilia* is a common dragonfly at this location, a coconut estate with a man-made pond (called a tank) of about 2 acres in extent in the middle. Mature red males are commonly seen at the tank while females appear only when mating. Females and some males (mature, juvenile and teneral) are also found away from the tank either in the weedy wet edges or in the drier fields. The individual in this photograph was not near the tank but in a surrounding field. At the time of this sighting, the tank was nearly dry because of the continuing drought since January 2006. Temperatures were in the range of 30-34°C during the day and 25-26°C overnight. This is slightly high for this time of year only because the rains that are expected in September had not yet arrived. Searches for more androchrome females since this discovery have not revealed any more. However, a photograph that was taken in December 1996 at this same location appears also to be of an androchrome female though the colour is more amber rather than red. *C. servilia* is found throughout the year at this location and has been recorded ovipositing in July and October.

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