ODONATA FROM THE ENNEDI AND OUNIANGA REGIONS
OF NORTHERN CHAD, WITH A NOTE OF THE STATUS
OF ORTHETRUM KOLLMANNSPERGERI BUCHHOLZ,
AND A CHECKLIST OF SPECIES CURRENTLY KNOWN
FROM THE REPUBLIC OF CHAD

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A hydrobiological survey of scarce permanent aquatic environments in the Ennedi and Ounianga regions of northern Chad yielded a small collection of 7 odon. spp. It adds 3 new spp. to the known fauna of Chad: Ischnura senegalensis, Pseudagrion hamoni, and Orthetrum sabina. The presence of O. sabina at Ounianga represents the westernmost record of this oriental sp. in N. Africa. Another oriental element, O. tauriolatum, may not exist in Africa W. of the Nile, possibly being replaced there by the closely related O. kolmannspergeri Buchholz. The 44 spp. hitherto reported from the Republic of Chad likely represent only a third or less of those to be expected in the country.

INTRODUCTION

To date only three publications have dealt fully or in part with the Odonata of Chad (North-Central Africa): NAVAS (1936) reported 6 species from the Tibesti mountain range in the far North of the country; BUCHHOLZ (1959) reported 6 species from the Ennedi mountains in the desertic Northeast, and an additional 7 species from the sahelian Biltine region South and South-East of it; and dipterologist C. DEJOUX (1968) provided a list of 31 taxa, of which 26 identified to species, from around N'Djamena and Lake Chad in the West (identifications by E.C.G. Pinhey). The scrub and wooded savannah regions in southern Chad remain unexplored. Hence, all new information on this huge (1.2 million km²) country, which covers 16 degrees of latitude and the full North African ecotone from wet savannah in the South to absolute desert in the North, is most welcome. Also, although knowledge on the Odonata of the Sahara desert has greatly in-
increased over the past two decades (summarized in DUMONT, 1988), the Chadian part of the Sahara has been covered only fragmentarily at best. The present collection, although small, therefore adds significant information to our knowledge of dragonfly biogeography in North Africa.

STUDY REGION

Hand-net collections of adult dragonflies were made in December 2003 and October 2004 as part of a general hydrobiological survey of the scarce permanent water bodies in the semi-desert and desert regions of northern Chad. These include the gueltas of Archei and Bechikelé (also known as Beské) in the southwestern Ennedi mountains, and the fresh to hypersaline lake systems of Ounianga Keibir and Ounianga Serir located west of the Mouri Depression and Southeast of the Tibesti mountains. The gueltas of Archei (Loc. 1) and Bechikelé (Loc. 2) are relics of much more extensive aquatic systems draining the Ennedi during the Early Holocene pluvial (~10,000-4,000 14C yr BP, or 12,000-4,500 calendar years ago), and today provide regionally unique conditions for survival of tropical African gallery-forest trees such as Ficus and Boswellia. They both consist of a steeply incised rock canyon with a series of rock pools fringed with Phragmites and Cyperaceae, exiting via a short permanent water course onto the surrounding desert plain as a seasonally flooded wadi (oued) fringed with dune palms and Acacia trees.

The Ounianga lakes are Pleistocene deflation basins filled like oases by continuous input of presumably early-Holocene fossil groundwater. Surrounded by absolute desert, their shoreline is today fringed by dune and date palms, and some scattered Acacia trees. Shoreline dissection by dune migration into Lake Yoa, the largest and deepest (26 m) lake at Ounianga Keibir, locally formed a short inlet where freshwater inflow exceeds its rate of mixing with the hypersaline lake water, so creating a freshwater brook with Phragmites and Potamogeton (Loc. 5). Similar dune migration across the shallower basin of Ounianga Serir (8-12 m) has over time dissected the basin into the large central Lake Teli (Loc. 4), which is hypersaline, and about seven smaller lakes to the East and West which are fresh. Most of these fresh lakes are partly or fully covered by floating Phragmites mats; only Lake Boku (Loc. 3) and Lake Edem provide sufficient open water for establishment of submerged aquatics such as Potamogeton and Chara. Under the hyperarid climate conditions prevailing at Ounianga, these permanent fresh standing-water environments are unique dragonfly habitat for a large region of the Central Sahara.

Dragonflies were collected at the following sites:
Loc. 1. 26-XI-03: Ennedi, guelta of Archei, interconnected rock pools at head of guelta
Loc. 2. 23-XI-03: Ennedi, guelta of Bechikelé, permanent stream inside guelta canyon
Loc. 3. 02-XI-03 and 24/12/04: Ounianga Serir, Lake Boku, freshwater lake
Loc. 4. 02-XII-03: Ounianga Serir, Lake Teli, hypersaline lake
Loc. 5. 07-XII-03 and 18/10/04: Ounianga Keibir, Lake Yoa, Girki spring, and brook flowing from spring into hypersaline lake
Loc. 6. 27-X-04: Ounianga Serir, Lake Edem.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

SPECIES LIST (first records for Chad are asterisked, *):
- *Ichneura senegalensis* Rambur: loc. 5 (6 ♀, 4 ♂), loc 6, ♂.
- *Pseudogeryon lumasi* Fraser: loc. 1 (1 ♂); more specimens seen at loc. 2.
- *Trithemis annulata* (P. de Beauvois); loc. 3, 1 ♂.
- *T. arteriosa* (Burmeister): locs. 1, 2 (3 ♀, 3 ♂)
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This small collection of 28 specimens strikingly adds three species (Ischnura senegalensis, Pseudagrion hamoni, and Orthetrum sabina) to the known dragonfly fauna of Chad, which now stands at 44 species. Review of the reported collection locations reveals that no single zone of this large country has been adequately surveyed, suggesting that the total species number will be significantly higher than that currently on record. Even the ubiquitous afrotropical-oriental species I. senegalensis had not previously been recorded from Chad! It is, however, interesting that exactly this Ischnura species occurs at Ounianga in the desert of northern Chad, and not I. sakarensis or I. fountaineae, already known from other isolated aquatic systems in the Sahara desert (DUMONT, 1979).

Also significant is the new record of Pseudagrion hamoni. This species occurs in all major mountain massifs of the Sahara between the Atlantic coast and the Nile valley, but had not previously been recorded from the Ennedi (gap now closed) or the Tibesti (still a question-mark). Its closest known population is from the Sahelian Jebel Marra Massif in northwestern Sudan (DUMONT, 1988). The presence of the Oriental species Orthetrum sabina at Ounianga may well represent its limit of westward extent into Africa. It was previously found in the desertic Meidob Hills NE of Jebel Marra but not at Jebel Marra itself (DUMONT, 1988), suggesting that it may be incapable to extend its range into the more humid environments of sub-Saharan Africa.

Among “blue” Orthetrum species, the present collection includes only O. chrysostigma found at the gueltas of Archi and Bechiké in the western Ennedi, where BUCHHOLZ (1959) had already recorded this species. The possibility of finding another species, O. kollmannspergeri Buchholz, at those localities prompted re-evaluation of other available Orthetrum material from the region. BUCHHOLZ (1959) described O. kollmannspergeri from Adré, on the Chad-Sudan border southeast of the Ennedi. Earlier, LONGFIELD (1936) had identified small blue Orthetrum from several localities around the Jebel Marra massif (Karanga, Kirima, Kurra, Kulling) as the Oriental species O. taeniolatum. In his 1988 paper, DUMONT thought specimens from Sjachacha springs in the Meidob Hills NE of Jebel Marra to represent the second record of O. taeniolatum from the Darfur region of northwestern Sudan. He did not consider that they might be O. kollmannspergeri, as the latter was tacitly assumed to be a synonym of O. taeniolatum, or of O. ransonneti (as stated in DUMONT, 1987). The synonymy with O. ransonneti, a much larger and robust animal (abdomen length of specimens from the Sahara about 32 mm, against only 24 mm for the Meidob specimens), can in fact be ruled out. Here, we re-examine six male Orthetrum from the Meidob
Hills and compared them with Buchholz' (1959) published figures, and with true *O. taeniolatum* from India, Iran and Turkey.

This analysis reveals that the Meidob specimens listed in DUMONT (1988) conform exactly to Buchholz' description of *O. kollmannspergeri*, especially with regard to the shape of the apical alae of the vesica seminalis. These are deeply bifid and asymmetric (Figs 3-4), whereas in *O. taeniolatum* they form two broad lobes (Figs 1-2). The macro-morphology of the two species is otherwise identical, suggesting that they share a common ancestor, with *kollmannspergeri* probably a recent offshoot of *taeniolatum*. Micromorphological differences between these taxa include the anterior lamina, which in *O. kollmannspergeri* is slightly higher.
and more robust than in *O. taeniolatum*, and with a more strongly swollen apical lip; and the hamulus, which apically forms an outwardly turned hook that overhangs a hollow and faces a small, dark outgrowth arising directly from the hamulus body (Fig. 5). In the hamulus of *O. taeniolatum*, the outgrowth that faces the apical hook forms the end of a fold that runs along most of the hind part of the hamulus, and causes the hamulus body to look more hollowed-out (Fig. 6, arrow). In both species, extrusion of the vesica pushes it against the inner wall of the hamuli, causing the apical hook to bend outward and make contact with the outgrowth on the side of the hamulus, effectively forming an ‘eye’ (Fig. 7); we suspect that this had occurred in the specimen figured by PINHEY (1970).

We conclude that *O. kollmannspergeri* Buchholz is a good species, as already indicated by PINHEY (1970). Its known distribution is still limited to a small Sahel region in eastern Chad and northeastern Sudan. However, the present findings warrant re-examination of *Ortheratum* collections from Ethiopia, Somalia, Eritrea (PINHEY, 1962), Sudan (LONGFIELD, 1936), and even Nigeria (PINHEY, 1970) to determine the true distribution of *O. kollmannspergeri*, *O. taeniolatum*, and related species in the eastern and central Sahel.

**CHECKLIST OF ODONATA RECORDED FROM CHAD.**

CD = DEJOUX (1968), KFB = BUCHHOLZ (1959), LN = NAVAS (1936)

LESTIDAE
- *Lestes pallidus* Rambur: N’Djamena (CD)
- *L. dissimulatus* Fraser (sub *L. simulans*): N’Djamena (CD)

COENAGRIONIDAE
- *Agriocnemis exilis* Selys: N’Djamena (CD)
- *Ischnura senegalensis* Rambur: this paper
- *Pseudagrion coeleste* Longfield: N’Djamena (CD)
- *P. hamoni* Fraser: this paper
- *P. nubicum* Selys: N’Djamena (CD)
- *P. (?) kersteni* Adré (KFB)
- *Ceriagrion glabrum* (Burmeister) (presumed): N’Djamena (CD)

PLATYCNEMIDIDAE
- *Platycnemis* sp. (larvae): macrophyte zone of eastern part of Lake Chad (CD)

AESHNIDAE
- *Anax parthenope* (Selys): Oued Yokou, N. fringe of Ennedi (ssp “geyri”) (KFB)
- *A. tristis* Hagen: N’Djamena (CD)
- *Hemianax ephippiger* (Burmeister): Guelta in Oued Zebre, E. Ennedi (KFB); spring at Torros, 1750 m asl, Tibesti (LN); around N’Djamena, Lakes Fanga and Tikem (CD)

GOMPHIDAE
- *Ictinogomphus* sp.: Tandjilé River between Moundou and Pola (larvae) (CD)
- *Lestinogomphus* sp.: Lac Fianga (larvae) (CD)
- *Paragomphus* sp.: River Chari, including delta; lakes Fitri and Léré (larvae) (CD)
- *Phyllogomphus* sp.: Tandjilé River between Moundou and Pola; Chari River at N'Djamena (larvae) (CD)

**MACROMIIDAE**

- *Phyllomacromia* sp. (*picta*?): N'Djamena (CD)

**LIBELLULIDAE**

- *Acisoma panorpoides ascalaphoides* (Rambur): floodplain of Chari River (CD)
- *Brachythemis leucosticta* (Burmeister): all around lake Chad; also Moundou, Deli, Gongor, Lac Léré, Tikem, Fianga, Lakes of Mombolo, Rivers of Kanem, along Chari River (CD); Fort Lamy (=N'Djamena) and Adré (KFB).
- *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé): around N'Djamena and elsewhere (CD); Miski valley, S. Tibesti and between Guzezenti and Bardai, N. Tibesti (LN); this paper.
- *C. sanguinolenta* (Burmeister): Anéch (KFB)
- *Diplacodes lebevrii* (Rambur): temporary swamps near N'Djamena and eastern zone of Lake Chad (CD)
- *Hemistigma albipunctum* (Rambur): around N'Djamena and in eastern Chad (CD)
- *Olposogastra lugubris* Karsch: near N'Djamena and along river Chari (CD)
- *Orthetrum brachiale* (P. de Beauvais): N'Djamena (CD)
- *O. caffrum* (Burmeister): Adré on border with Sudan (KFB)
- *O. chrysostigma* (Burmeister): Béskéré and Archel in Ennedi (KFB); this paper.
- *O. icteromelas* Ris: N'Djamena (CD)
- *O. kolllmannspergeri* Buchholz: Adré on border with Sudan (KFB)
- *O. sabina* (Drury): this paper
- *Palpopleura lucia* (Drury): shores of Logone River at Bebo, 50 km S. of Doba (CD)
- *P. deceptor* (Calvert): Abou Goulem between Abché and Adré (KFB)
- *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius): shores of Lake Fianga and across most of Chad (CD)
- *Philonomon luminans* Karsch: near N'Djamena (CD)
- *Sympertrum fonscolumbii* (Selys): Wadi Rei, Ennedi (KFB); Miski valley, Tibesti (LN)
- *Tholymis tillarga* (Fabricius): common around N'Djamena and along River Chari (e.g. at Niellim) (CD)
- *Tramea basilaris* (P. de Beauvais): along Chari River between Niellim and Djuntillo and around N'Djamena.
- *Trithemis annulata* (P. de Beauvais): Chari River near Niellim and N'Djamena (CD); this paper
- *T. arteriosa* (Burmeister): Ennedi, several stations (KFB); Bardai, Yebbi, Cen-
tral Tibesti and Toros spring, Eastern Tibesti (LN); this paper
- *T. hecate* Ris: Chari River near Niellim (CD)
- *T. kirbyi ardens* Gerstäcker; "Ennedi" (KFB); between Bardai and Yebbi, ca 1100 m a.s.l., Central Tibesti (LN)
- *T. furva* (Karsch) (sub *T. risti*): Adré (KFB)
- *Urothemis edwardsii* (Selys); all around lake Chad, Bol, all islands in the East, Ndjora, Lakes Fitri, Tikel and Fianga (CD)

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