

**FAUNA OF PROTECTED AREAS - 4
ODONATA (INSECTA) OF
INDIRA GANDHI WILDLIFE SANCTUARY
AND NATIONAL PARK, TAMIL NADU**

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The Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park, formerly known as the Anamalai Wildlife Sanctuary (10°13'08"-10°33'27"N & 76°49'02"-77°21'07"E), occupies an area of 958km² at an elevation of 340-2400m along the eastern slope of the Western Ghats in Coimbatore District, Tamil Nadu, India.

Fraser (1931) reported 41 species and subspecies of Odonata (Insecta) from Anamalai and Mudis hills. Later, in his *Fauna of British India* (1933, 1934 & 1936), Fraser added eight more species of Odonata occurring in the area. The present note deals with 22 species and subspecies of Odonata collected from these protected areas through our surveys. Of these, 10 species and one subspecies are new additions to the Odonata fauna of the area. Thus, altogether 60 species and subspecies under 43 genera and 13 families are currently known to occur in the Park (Table 1). A systematic list of all the species of Odonata known till date from this Sanctuary, and a systematic account of the 22 species and subspecies collected during our surveys are provided below. The materials studied are deposited in the faunal depository of the Zoological Survey of India, Southern Regional Station, Chennai.

The nomenclature followed here is after Prasad and Varshney (1995).

Systematic account

***Agriocnemis pygmaea* (Rambur)**

Agrion pygmaeum Rambur, Ins.Nevrop p. 278 (1842); Brauer, verh. zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, vol. xiv. p.161 (1864); id., Reise, 'Novara' p.103 (1866).

Material examined: One male, 11.ii.1996, Thirumurthy dam site; one female, 7.ii.1996, Amaravathy nagar, coll. M.B. Raghunathan; one male, 14.xii.1997, Navamalai, coll. Mary Bai.

Distribution: Throughout India

Remarks: A very common species; recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary

***Ceriagrion coromandelianum* (Fabr.)**

Agrion coromandelianum Fabr., Syst. Suppl. p.287(1798).

Material examined: One female, 8.iv.1996, near Monkey Falls, coll. M.S. Ravichandran

Distribution: Throughout India.

Remarks: A common species; recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

***Ischnura aurora aurora* (Brauer)**

Agrion delicatum Hagen, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, Vol.viii, p.479 (1858).

Material examined: One male, 10.iv.1992, Anamalai, Coll. T.S.N. Murthy; one male, 22.ii.1998, Karian Solai, coll. M.S. Ravichandran

Distribution: Throughout India.

Remarks: A common species; recorded for the first time from the protected areas.

***Pseudagrion rubriceps rubriceps* Selys**

Pseudagrion rubriceps Selys, Bull. Acad. Belg.(2) Vol. xiii, p.510 (1876).

Material examined: One male, 12.ii.1998, Attakkatty, coll. M.S. Ravichandran

Distribution: Throughout India.

Remarks: Recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

***Copera vittata* (Selys)**

Psilocnemis vittata Selys, Bull.Acad.Belg.(2) Vol. xvi, p.170 (1863).

Material examined: One male, 22.ii.1998, Karian Solai, coll. M.S. Ravichandran

Distribution: Throughout India.

Remarks: Recorded for the first time from the Park.

***Vestalis gracilis gracilis* (Rambur)**

Calopteryx gracilis Rambur, Ins. Nevrop. p.224 (1842).

Material examined: Six males, four females, 28.xi.1996, Valve house road; one male, one female, 26.xi.1996, Sholayar, coll. P.T. Cherian; one male, two females, 19.ii.1992, Top Slip; two males, two females, around 31.i.1993, Topslip, coll. G. Thirumalai; one female, 10.xii.1997, Vettakkaranpudur, coll. Mary Bai.

Distribution: India: Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Meghalaya and West Bengal.

***Vestalis gracilis montana* Fraser**

Vestalis gracilis amoena Fraser, J. Bombay Nat. Hist. Soc. Vol. xxxiii, p. 583 (1929).

Material examined: One female, 31.i.1993, Topslip, coll. G.

Thirumalai.

Remarks: Recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

Distribution: Southern India.

***Rhinocypha bisignata* (Selys)**

Rhinocypha bisignata Selys, Syn. Cal. p. 62(1853).

Material examined: One male, one female, 17.ii.1998, Sarkarpathy, coll. M.S. Ravichandran.

Distribution: Southern India and Maharashtra.

***Acisoma panorpoides panorpoides* Rambur**

Acisoma panarpoides Rambur, Ins. Nevrop. p.28, pl. ii, fig. 26 (1868).

Material examined: One male, 31.i.1993, Topslip, coll. G. Thirumalai.

Distribution: Throught India.

Remarks: Recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

***Brachythemis contaminata* (Fabricius)**

Libellula contaminata Fabricius, Ent. Syst. vol.ii, p. 382 (1793).

Material examined: One male, 14.xii. 1997, Navamalai, coll. Mary Bai.

Distribution: Throughout the plains of India.

Remarks: A common species; recorded from the Sanctuary for the first time.

***Bradinopyga geminata* (Rambur)**

Libellula geminata Rambur, Ins. Nevrop. p.90 (1842).

Material examined: One male, 10.xii.1997, Vettakkaranpudur, coll. Mary Bai.

Remarks: A common species recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

Distribution: Peninsular India.

***Cratilla lineata* (Brauer)**

Orthemis lineata Brauer, Sctzungsber. Akad. Wien, vol. xxviii. p.9 (Sep.) (1878).

Material examined: One male, Manompally, 25.xi.1996, coll. P.T.Cherian

Distribution: Widely distributed in the west coast of India and in the Western and Eastern Ghats.

Remarks: Recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

***Crocothemis servilia servilia* (Drury)**

Libellula servilia Drury, III.Ex. Ins. Vol.i, pl.xlvii, fig. 6, pp.112, 113(1170); Rambur, Ins. Nevrop. p.80 (1842).

Material examined: One male, 18.ii.1992, Sethumadai, coll. G. Thirumalai

Distribution: Throughout India.

Remarks: A common species; recorded from the Sanctuary for the first time.

***Diplacodes trivialis* (Rambur)**

Libellula trivialis Rambur, Ins. Nevrop. p.115 (1842).

Material examined: One male, 19.ii.1992, Topslip, coll. G. Thirumalai; three males, one females, 10.iv.1992, Anamalai, coll. T.S.N. Murthy.

Distribution: Throughout India.

Remarks: One of the commonest dragonflies of India

***Orthetrum glaucum* (Brauer)**

Libellula glauca Brauer, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. wien, vol. xviii, pp.169,732(1868).

Material examined: One male, Attakkatti, 12.ii.1998, coll. M.S. Ravichandran.

Distribution: Throughout India.

***Orthetrum luzonicum* (Brauer)**

Libellula luzonica Brauer, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien. Vol. xv, p. 1012.

Material examined: One male, 25.xi.1996, Manompally, coll. P.T. Cherian.

Distribution: Throughout India.

***Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum* (Rambur)**

Libellula neglecta Rambur, Ins. Nevrop. p. 86 (1842).

Material examined: One male, 14.iv.1992, Attakatti, coll. T.S.N. Murthy.

Remarks: A very common species usually

found near ponds and streams.

Distribution: Throughout India.

***Orthetrum sabina sabina* (Drury)**

Libellula sabina Drury, III. Exot. Ins. Vol.i, pp. 114-115 (1770).

Material examined: One male, 31.i.1993, Topslip; one male, 17.ii.1992, Chinnar, coll. G. Thirumalai; one male, 10.viii.1997, Amaravathi nagar, coll. M.B. Raghunathan.

Distribution: Throughout India.

***Palpopleura sexmaculata sexmaculata* (Fabr.)**

Libellula sexmaculata Fabricius, Mant. Ins. vol.i, p.338 (1787).

Material examined: Four males, five females, 25.xi.1996, Manompally, coll. P.T. Cherian.

Distribution: Throughout India.

***Pantala flavescens* (Fabr.)**

Libellula flavescens Fabricius, Ent. Syst. Suppl. p.285 (1798).

Material examined: One female, 17.ii.1992, Chinnar, (Anamalai), coll. G. Thirumalai, four males, 8.viii.1997, Kallapuram, coll. M.B. Raghunathan.

Distribution: Throughout India

Remarks: A very common species; recorded for the first time from the Sanctuary.

***Trithemis aurora* (Burm.)**

Libellula aurora Burmeister, Handb., Ent.vol.ii, p.859(1839); Hagen, Verh. Zool.-bot. Ges. Wien, Vol.viii, p.480 (1858).

Material examined: One female, 25.xi.1996, Manompally, coll. P.T. Cherian; one female, 8.iv.1992, Anaikatty, coll. T.S.N. Murthy; two males, 14.xii.1997, Navamalai, coll. Mary Bai.

Distribution: Throughout India.

***Trithemis festiva* (Rambur)**

Libellula festiva Rambur, Ins. Nevrop., p. 92 (1842).

Material examined: Two males, 10.iv.1996,

Kudiyapuram, coll. M.S. Ravichandran.

Distribution: Throughout India.

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Table 1. Systematic list

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| Order: Odonata | <u>Aeshnidae</u> |
| Suborder: Zygoptera | <i>Anaciaeschna donaldi</i> Fraser |
| Superfamily: Coenagrionidea | <i>Anax guttatus</i> (Burmeister) |
| <u>Coenagrionidae</u> | <i>Anax immaculifrons</i> Rambur |
| * <i>Agriocnemis pygmaea</i> (Rambur) | <i>Gynacantha dravida</i> Lieftinck |
| * <i>Ceragrion coromandelianum</i> (Fabricius) | Superfamily: Cordulegasteroidea |
| * <i>Ichnura aurora aurora</i> (Brauer) | <u>Cordulegasteridae</u> |
| <i>Onychargia atrocyana</i> Selys | <i>Chlorogomphus xanthoptera</i> (Fraser) |
| <i>Pseudagrion rubriceps rubriceps</i> Selys | Superfamily: Libelluloidea |
| <u>Platycnemididae</u> | <u>Corduliidae</u> |
| <i>Copera vittata</i> (Selys) | <i>Hemicordulia asiatica</i> Selys |
| <u>Platystictidae</u> | <i>Idionyx burliyaensis</i> Fraser |
| <i>Protosticta davenporti</i> Fraser | <i>Idionyx saffronata</i> Fraser |
| <i>Protosticta hearseyi</i> Fraser | <i>Idionyx travancorensis</i> Fraser |
| <u>Protoneuridae</u> | <i>Macromia annaimallaiensis</i> Fraser |
| <i>Esme cyaneovittata</i> Fraser | <i>Macromia flavocolorata</i> Fraser |
| <i>Esme mudiensis</i> Fraser | <u>Libellulidae</u> |
| <i>Prodasineura verticalis annandalei</i> (Fraser) | * <i>Acisoma panorpoides panorpoides</i> Rambur |
| Superfamily: Lestoidea | * <i>Brachythemis contaminata</i> (Fabricius) |
| <u>Lestidae</u> | * <i>Bradinopyga geminata</i> (Rambur) |
| <i>Ceylonolestes davenporti</i> Fraser | * <i>Cratilla lineata</i> (Brauer) |
| Superfamily: Calopterygoidea | * <i>Crocothemis servilla servilla</i> (Drury) |
| <u>Calopterygidae</u> | <i>Diplacodes trivialis</i> (Rambur) |
| <i>Neurobasis chinensis chinensis</i> (Linnaeus) | <i>Hylaeothemis f. fruhstorferi</i> (Karsch) |
| <i>Vestalis apicalis apicalis</i> Selys | <i>Neurothemis fulvia</i> (Drury) |
| <i>Vestalis gracilis gracilis</i> (Rambur) | <i>Neurothemis fulvia intermedia</i> (Rambur) |
| * <i>Vestalis gracilis montana</i> Fraser | <i>Onychothemis testacea ceylanica</i> Ris |
| <u>Chlorocyphidae</u> | <i>Orthetrum glaucum</i> (Brauer) |
| <i>Rhinocypha bisignata</i> (Selys) | <i>Orthetrum luzonicum</i> (Brauer) |
| <u>Euphaeidae</u> | <i>Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum</i> (Rambur) |
| <i>Euphaea cardinalis</i> (Fraser) | <i>Orthetrum sabina sabina</i> (Drury) |
| <i>Euphaea fraseri</i> (Laidlaw) | <i>Orthetrum taeniolatum</i> (Schneider) |
| Suborder: Anisoptera | <i>Orthetrum t. triangulare</i> (Selys) |
| Superfamily: Aeshnoidea | <i>Palpopleura s. sexmaculata</i> (Fabricius) |
| <u>Gomphidae</u> | * <i>Pantala flavescens</i> (Fabricius) |
| <i>Acrogomphus fraseri</i> Laidlaw | <i>Potamarcha obscura</i> (Rambur) |
| <i>Asiagomphus nilgircus</i> (Laidlaw) | <i>Sympetrum fonscolombi</i> (Selys) |
| <i>Gomphidia kodaguensis</i> Fraser | <i>Tetrathemis platyptera</i> Selys |
| <i>Heliogomphus promelas</i> (Selys) | <i>Trithemis aurora</i> (Burmeister) |
| <i>Onychogomphus n. nilgiriensis</i> (Fraser) | * <i>Trithemis festiva</i> (Fabricius) |
| <i>Onychogomphus n. annaimallaicus</i> Fraser | <i>Zygonyx malabaricus</i> Fraser |

*Additions to the Odonata (Insecta) of Indira Gandhi Wildlife Sanctuary and National Park