



# AGRION

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLDWIDE DRAGONFLY ASSOCIATION

PATRON: Professor Edward O. Wilson FRS, FRSE

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## EDITORIAL

This number is late in getting to you owing to a number of seriously delaying difficulties. My apologies.

### *MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT*

Thanks to well-harmonized cooperation of the Board of Trustees, especially of Mike and Gordon, the preceding and next Presidents, I have managed to serve for one and a half years as the President without committing any major blunders.

Our Secretary Linda and Treasurer David have been working persistently and devotedly for WDA. The subscription fees they collected for the year 2006 involved those from 42 members who were kind enough to become 'sustaining members', paying 50% more money to contribute to the realization of the WDA's objectives. I would like to express my special thanks to these members for their generosity.

Our Journal, I.J.O., has now been through nine volumes. Thanks to the dedicated editing tasks undertaken by the Managing Editor, Reinhard, and 21 scientists who have been working for 3 years as the members of the Editorial Board, the quality of the journal has been greatly enhanced. I.J.O. now has its own homepage under construction, and this extra advertising, along with the increase in the journal's quality, will hopefully lead to our journal being listed by ISI.

Our Webmaster, Rob, has been managing WDA's home page since 1999 and has distributed WDA's news, AGRION and the Abstracts as well as other Odonatological information to the world. The 'window' of WDA is to be handed to the next Webmaster during the Namibia symposium. I thank Rob and Kevin, his son and assistant webmaster, for their hard work and for giving us such a pleasant opportunity to keep up with the activities of WDA.

I also thank Viola, Göran, Richard and Dennis for their contributions to the management of the Association by splendidly fulfilling their allotted tasks.

Beside the Trustees, I thank Jill for editing such a readable newsletter, Martin Lindeboom, Klaus Reinhardt and Martin Schorr for editing the Odonatological Abstracts which is such a complete source of odonatological research and so very useful for odonatologists of the world, and Eugene and Frank for preparing for the next symposium in Namibia.

I look forward to seeing many of the readers at the Namibia symposium.

*Hidenori Ubukata*

## *Notice of the 5<sup>th</sup> w.d.a. biennial meeting*

The 5<sup>th</sup> Biennial Meeting of the Worldwide Dragonfly Association will be held during the 5<sup>th</sup> International Symposium at Swakopmund, Namibia on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2007 (at a time to be confirmed).

### *5<sup>th</sup> International symposium*

A transcription error occurred in the process of producing the 2007 Symposium/Congress announcement for July's AGRION. The correct web address for information and registration is <http://wda2007.tu-bs.de>. Registrations are rolling in and the **post symposium tour** is over-subscribed so, unless you pre-registered before early December, there is little chance of being able to join it – there are already 100 pre-registrants.

People requiring official letters of invitation should indicate this on the pre-registration form on the website (this will keep the paperwork uncomplicated). Registration forms will be available via the website shortly.

We are looking forward to a very interesting gathering at Swakopmund in 2007. For most this will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity,

### *European atlas of dragonflies project*

In 2005 the initiative was taken to start working on a European atlas of dragonflies. The project aims at making an atlas of the distribution of all European species based on 50 by 50 km dots. Such maps have been published for birds and mammals and have been shown to be very informative. It is difficult to find money for such a project. However I have the luck that the organisation where I work (Invertebrate Survey – The Netherlands) gives me one day in the week to organise the project.

The first year of the project was largely spent on contacting regional coordinators (see figure). These coordinators are responsible for building regional databases and will be asked to be author of the species text in the book. For many countries good databases are present but there are still many for which no databases exist. For this reason the publication of the atlas is scheduled for 2010. For Romania and the Ukraine proposals were written to stimulate work on dragonflies. Financed by the Dutch ministry of foreign affairs Elena Dyatlova will work for a year on the dragonflies of the Ukraine. She will build a database, do fieldwork and will make an overview of the important dragonfly areas in the Southwest Ukraine. A grant from the Dutch branch of the WWF will enable Cosmin Mancu to put records from collections, literature and his own fieldwork in a database on Romanian dragonflies. A database of Bulgaria will be built by Milen Marinov with a small grant from the International Dragonfly Fund (IDF).

On the project's internet site ([www.naturalis.nl/europeandragonflies](http://www.naturalis.nl/europeandragonflies)) information can be found on the regional coordinators. Many readers will undoubtedly have spent holidays collecting records of dragonflies in parts of Europe. I hope that these records will be submitted to the different regional coordinators so that they can be used for the European atlas.

If you have any questions, comments or ideas let me know.

**Vincent Kalkman** ([kalkman@naturalis.nl](mailto:kalkman@naturalis.nl))



Map of Europe showing the countries for which regional coordinators are active. For Germany, Norway and Sweden potential coordinators have yet to be asked.

## *News of members*

**Henri Dumont** was, as most members will remember, the first Editor of our Journal, then called PANTALA, and he played a big part in the successful launch of WDA. He writes:

"My academic career has just entered its last year. Next October, they will retire me. So, I've started improving my home lab already, as to be able to fill my hours later on..."

I am still deep into dragonfly phylogenetics. You may have seen last year's paper on the Caloptera, and I am still adding and correcting things in that group. Among other things, that gives me an excuse to travel, in order to catch "critical missing taxa". This year was a good year, with visits to Bhutan and South China, and for next year I am already planning to go back to Guangdong and Yunnan, and perhaps Laos.

In Laos, there is a young female professor whom I would like to help get started with dragonflies. She has no literature, no equipment, little money – only plenty of students that need subjects to work on, and laboratory space." Henri asks any member with connections in the area to get in touch with him. [Henri.Dumont@ugent.be]

**Kate Miller** married Tony Joyce in April and we wish her every happiness in the future.

## ***ODONATOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE UKRAINE***

*Elena Dyatlova*, Odessa National Museum, Ukraine

The year has been fruitful from an odonatological point of view. In May-June Dr. Erik Svensson from the Lund University (Sweden) "sent" me his student Maya Johansson. Our task was to visit different populations of *Ischnura elegans* and to realize the project under the title "Population genetics and evolutionary ecology of *Ischnura elegans*". We visited populations in the lower Danube and Dniestr rivers in the South-western Ukraine and a population in the vicinity of Odessa. Together we investigated the ratio of different female morphs, the density of specimens in populations and the fecundity of different morphs. It was exciting to obtain eggs from *Ischnura* in the laboratory! This method has been tested in Swedish populations before by Erik Svensson and his students so we had very clear instructions on what to do. I enjoyed this work and cooperation with Maya and hope that this winter we'll have time to analyze our results and publish an article to let people know about our discoveries.

During the summer I have visited many picturesque places of my region and in the second half of the summer I worked on the Tacis project (Technical Assistance for the Lower Dniester River Basin Management Plan) on the inventory of fauna of future National Park in the Lower Dniestr which hopefully will be created in the nearest future.

At the end of the summer, together with Vincent Kalkman, I started a new project "Guardians of the watershed: identifying important dragonfly areas in South-west Ukraine". We met in the Ukraine to discuss our first results and visited the Danube Biosphere Reserve. During this time (the middle of August) we observed a huge migration of *Aeshna mixta* and *Sympetrum meridionale*.

In the beginning of September I visited some lovely places in the South of Poland (surroundings of village Dubiecko (Przemyskie uplands) and picturesque mountains in the Bieszczady National Park (South-east corner of the country, along the border with Slovakia and the Ukraine, Subcarpathian Voivodship). My companion was Boguslaw Daraz, true naturalist and photographer of insects.

In the middle of September I visited Roztocze National Park in Eastern Poland (Lublin Voivodship). It was an odonatological workshop organized by Dr. Pawel Buczynski and Dr. Grzegorz Tonczyk in Zwierzyniec. In Poland I saw new biotopes and species that I have never seen in my steppe areas in the South of Ukraine.

For the future, we plan to prepare a list of the areas that are really important for dragonflies in the Southwestern Ukraine and to attract more people to work with Odonata in Ukraine.

### *THREE NEW DRAGONFLY BOOKS - Bert Orr*

The order Odonata is enjoying a golden age of book publication. Never before have we been so well served with regional identification guides and handbooks. This remarkable activity has, in the last six months, reached a new high point with the appearance of three superb volumes, each serving a different zoogeographic region, and each almost certainly destined to become a classic in its own right.

I refer, in order of publication, to: '*Field guide to the dragonflies of Britain and Europe*', written by Klaas-Douwe Dijkstra and numerous collaborators and illustrated by Richard Lewington; '*Dragonfly genera of the New World*', by Rosser Garrison, Natalia von Ellenreider and Jerry Louton; and '*The complete field guide to dragonflies of Australia*', by Günther Theischinger and John Hawking. Each of these books in its own way serves as a model of its genre, and taken together the three volumes demonstrate how differently the faunas of different parts of the world need to be treated, owing to different levels of knowledge and of species diversity. They are also the three most important new references for anyone with a serious interest in world Odonata. I say this firstly because each book admirably fulfils its primary objective of field and/or museum identification, and secondly because, by virtue of its scope and manner of treatment, each book provides a sound overview of its respective fauna, lending an understanding of form, ecology and patterns of diversity and distribution even to the reader who will never have the opportunity to use the book in the field.

Beginning with the European field guide, the tasks of the authors and the illustrator at first seem relatively modest; only 156 species (less than 3 % of the World fauna) occur within the region, which includes all of Europe west of the former USSR, Western Turkey and Western North Africa. Moreover the systematics of the fauna are on a sound footing and the biology of most species is well known. With so few species it is possible to figure all colour variants and immature forms. The challenge for the authors and illustrator, therefore, is to produce a text and accompanying diagrams that add to and complement what has already been published, most notably, Richard Askew's beautiful and well-known guide first published in 1988. In my opinion they have succeeded admirably.

By virtue of the tiny font used, and the small figures, an immense amount of satisfying detail has been packed into this 319 page A5 format book. Presbyopes may protest. Opening chapters deal not only with the usual themes of anatomy (figured in glorious colour) and adult biology (larvae are not treated), but also for the neophyte there is much useful basic information on identification techniques. Simple visual and tabular keys are arranged in a logical hierarchical fashion. The formula is so successful I would consider it worth emulating in any regional field guide, even that of a rich tropical fauna. Any resident or visitor to Europe will appreciate the regional accounts, summarising the fauna for every country, each written by a local specialist, highlighting the usefulness of the multi-authored approach of this book.

The main body of the book provides a species by species account, with most species given a double page spread. Richard Lewington's studies, somewhat stylised watercolour and gauche drawings, are both technically brilliant and breathtakingly beautiful. Particularly delightful are the many coloured details, each executed with painstaking precision, which recreate the effect of the insect seen through a good microscope. In many cases the drawings are supplemented by excellent field photographs, demonstrating characteristic postures and adding verisimilitude to the overall presentation.

The book is rounded off by three technical appendices, including a checklist. For me the acid test of this book is that it is easy to pick up and read, gaining a good appreciation of the European fauna at a distance of 16,000 km. It is obvious it will be supremely useful in the field, in most cases allowing identification even without capture.

The challenges faced by the authors of '*Dragonfly genera of the New World*' are almost diametrically opposite those faced by the European authors. With respect to many animal and plant groups the Neotropical region is the most diverse on earth and Odonata is no exception. In total there are some 1650 species and counting; nearly a third of the world's fauna. Neotropical Odonata have been relatively overlooked compared with birds and butterflies, and our knowledge of the group as a whole, and especially the Zygoptera has scarcely begun to mature.

For this reason, and because of the sheer scale of the fauna, this book treats only the Anisoptera (a companion volume on Zygoptera is in preparation), and seeks to provide reliable keys to generic level. The authors have chosen also to include the well-known Nearctic fauna (US and Canada), a decision which I find especially inspired, as many genera span

both regions (only 16 of 124 genera occur only in the US and/or Canada) and it enables the reader to appreciate patterns of biogeography and biodiversity in a much broader context than if only the Neotropical region had been included. (Indeed, of 30 anisopteran genera treated in the European field guide, 16 are also treated in this book, including most of the typical European genera).

The book recognises 8 families, the Corduliinae and Macromiinae both being treated as subfamilies of the Libellulidae. Following a short general introduction and an illustrated family key, the main text is grouped into families. These begin with separate keys to genera for males and females, the latter especially a formidable undertaking for tropical groups such as the Libellulinae (= Libellulidae *sensu stricto*). The keys are mostly dichotomous, with couplets set in adjacent columns – an idiosyncrasy the reader will doubtless soon adapt to. All keys are generously illustrated with crisp, clean, monotone drawings. Throughout the book a typical (quarto) page might include 6-8 drawings – some, especially in the keys, have 12 or more, and almost none have fewer than four. Figures are numbered to 1-1626, many with more than one part. In fact the work stands almost as an encyclopaedia of anisopteran anatomy, a feature that alone should persuade many potential readers to obtain a copy. I have not had the opportunity to test the keys except in a rather trivial way with some very well known genera from my British Columbian collection, but this trial at least suggests the book will be very easy to use.

Within each family account, following the key is a detailed and scholarly account for each genus. This includes a synonymic list; a list of species in the region; references; distribution in the region, accompanied by a map; status of classification; potential for new species (in nearly half of all genera this is rated as likely); habitat (and habits). These accounts constitute 170 of a total 368 pages of text. They are particularly valuable for those wishing to enlarge their overview of the world dragonfly fauna. The book has eight colour plates of photographs of dragonflies in nature, representing 5 families, and showing such fabulous creatures as *Zenithoptera fasciata*, first described by Linnaeus from a painting in an old book of birds, and one of the first tropical Odonata ever described. This book is however no frothy effervescent celebration of New World exotica, but a serious attempt to elucidate one of the most complex biotas on earth. It will be a required reference for any serious student of faunistics and biogeography, and an essential tool for any field worker in the Neotropical part of region.

In terms of both scope and need the Australian book falls somewhere in between the previous two. The Australian odonate fauna is moderately rich (322 spp.), highly distinctive, and until now no significant visual field guide has ever been produced. In 1991, the late Tony Watson, together with Günther Theischinger and Hilda Abbey published a large format volume (Watson *et al.* 1991), which was basically an illustrated key with sections on general biology, and included in the central plates portraits of 55 species of Australian dragonflies in life. It was and remains a very useful identification guide for the dragonfly in the hand, but it fails to provide for any but the most assiduous reader a good overview of the Australian fauna. Its motto is, 'first catch your dragonfly....'. It has also long been out of print.

This new guide to Australia's dragonflies, provides photographs of every species, either in life (about 200 spp.), or as museum specimens, pinned with spread wings or papered. Photographs of dead dragonflies are seldom beautiful, but here they serve a very useful purpose and in conjunction with the life portraits give the reader a very good idea of what to expect in the field. Colour illustrations, always on the right hand page (A5 format) of an opening are supported on the left hand page by a brief text and a series of line drawings of diagnostic features, many recycled from Watson *et al.* (1991). Text and figures are always in conjunction and typically two or three species are treated for each double page spread. Every genus is treated in summary and, where known, representative larvae are figured, at least by a line drawing of the exuvia, and often also by a thumbnail photograph of the living larva on the right hand page. The book is rounded off by an illustrated key to the genera of adults and another to genera of larvae, where known. This latter is a tremendous asset. Also included are business-like instructions for collecting and preserving dragonflies, and a checklist. The book recognises 30 families (two of which, Chlorocyphidae and Calopterygidae, probably do not occur in Australia). This is the reverse of the approach to higher classification used in the Neotropical book, which recognises a single family, the Libellulidae that in the Australian book is split into 11 families (two in the European book). One anomaly, which might be easily amended in future editions, is that measurements are provided for larvae, but not for adults, a surprising and inconvenient omission.

The ease with which the authors have squeezed most necessary information for field identification into a book of similar size to the European book, for a fauna more than twice as large, suggests that in future something resembling the approach used in the latter might also be applied to the Australian fauna. However before any such undertaking is likely, we need more odonatologists, and with them a critical mass of general naturalists who are prepared to outlay the cost of a good meal on a book. I cannot think of a better stimulus to interest in Australia's dragonflies than this new field guide. Just two days after its release I received a telephone call from a young entomologist based in Sydney; he had bought the book earlier that day and now was purchasing a semi-professional level SLR camera to photograph dragonflies – what lens would I recommend?

The near simultaneous appearance of these excellent volumes begs the question – what books do we need? And perhaps more realistically, what books can we hope to persuade publishers to accept? Guidebooks are seldom supported as serious scientific achievements, and when money is put forward, the rush of proposals can be over-

whelming, with often the quick being selected ahead of the good. Therefore guidebooks and handbooks must almost always compete in a commercial publishing environment, the rules of which change from region to region.

I am convinced that from a purely illustrative perspective the Odonata are best represented by a combination of coloured and monochrome artwork and photographs of living insects, as best exemplified here by the European handbook. This is obviously also an expensive method of production, and involves an enormous investment of labour by the artist (s). However with modern production methods, once an image has been created, it is very easy to recycle it at a different size and in a different layout, as evidenced by many of Richard Lewington's figures taken from his earlier work on British Dragonflies (Brooks 1997). Moreover for many tropical species, photographs of living specimens are almost unobtainable, and photographs of museum specimens require so much manipulation to be attractive that it is usually easier to produce a drawing; so in principle the approach of the European book has universal application, the greatest impediment to the production of useful regional guides being lack of finance. I also feel that we need erudite reference books of a broader scope, such as the New World guide, the style of which might equally be recast as a world guide to a particular family, the better if augmented by coloured drawings of whole specimens and life photos. From one family might follow another, until we arrived at a series that could truly be called 'Odonata of the World'. An impossible dream? In the early years of the last century, led by Prof Adelbert Seitz, a team of leading taxonomists and artists produced the unsurpassed 'Macrolepidoptera of the world', in 16 volumes, available in 3 languages, figuring some 40,000 known species of butterflies and larger moths. The work was funded by subscription and appeared in instalments over 20 years. (A planned fourth edition in Latin was under-subscribed and abandoned). World population at the time was about one quarter of today's, the educated population relatively much smaller still. The world economy was relatively tiny, with an official conservation budget of approximately zero. Production processes were formidable. With a mere 5000-6000 species and today's resources, an equivalent series on the dragonflies should be eminently achievable.

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## *Welcome to new membeRS*

### **Australia**

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### **Japan**

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Mike Parr Helebarton, 9 St James Street, South Petherton, Somerset. **UK**

Erik Pilgrim 2604 Falling Water Drive, Centerville, OH 45459, **USA**

### **Errata.**

The penultimate paragraph of Mike Parr's Nigeria article on page 22 in the July 2006 AGRION should have read: "There are a few specimens that need further study but so far 25 Zygoptera and 23 Anisoptera species have been identified. One of the Zygoptera is an undescribed *Chlorocnemis*, which has also been found in nearby Cameroon by Graham Vick. We haven't yet decided what it should be called! I am grateful to Graham for his help in examining our recent collection."

Computers would appear to have minds of their own sometimes! My apologies. *Editor.*

## **Announcement**

**Atlas of the Belgian dragonflies (Odonata). De Libellen (Odonata) van België: verspreiding – evolutie – habitats.** Geert De Knijf, Anny Anselin, Philippe Goffart & Marc Taily (eds.) A publication of the Belgium Dragonfly

Group *GOMPHUS* in collaboration with the Research Institute for Nature and Forest (INBO). 368 pages, Full colour, soft cover ISBN 92-403-0249-9 Price 25 euro (+ postage).

The book can be ordered at Natuurpunt Winkel Graatakker 11, B.2300 Turnhout, Belgium e-mail: [winkel@natuurpunt.be](mailto:winkel@natuurpunt.be)

In September 2006 a brand new book was published. In this atlas we present the state of the art on Odonata in Belgium. More than 65.000 records were collected by more than 500 volunteers.

The main part focuses on the 69 Odonata species of Belgium. Each species is discussed on 2 pages. There is a short overview of the distribution in Europe, the present distribution in Belgium and changes in distribution during the last 100 years, the habitat preferences and the phenology of each species is given. Each species is illustrated by a photo and 2 distribution maps, one based on 10km grid cells for all the data and one on 5km grid cells for the period 1990-2000.

Other chapters deal with the ecology and behaviour, a historical synopsis of dragonfly faunistics in Belgium going back to the beginning of the 19th century (Selys and Vander Linden) and with the presentation of the general results. Another major chapter examines the habitat requirements of dragonflies and the different habitats in Belgium. This is followed by the Red List of Flanders and of Wallonia and the results of the survey in the latter. We also give a complete Bibliography on Belgium Odonata. All figures and graphs have English captions and there is an English as well as a German summary of 7 pages.

*Geert De Knijf*

**The WDA is in its tenth year. It has its roots in Slovenia but its branches spread all over the world.**

**Our membership has now risen to 450 and we have members in 40 countries**



**ECHO focuses on odonate research in tropical Asia. All those interested and active in this region are invited to contribute. Contributions should be stimulating, informal, entertaining and preferably not too long. The deadline for the next Echo is the first of May 2007. Contributions should be sent to Vincent Kalkman (Kalkman@naturalis.nl)**

### List of species found at the Malagos Watershed area, Davao City, Philippines

	Present in the Müller collection in the RMNH, Leiden	Found in 2005-2006
<b>Gomphidae</b>		
<i>Gomphidia</i> cf <i>kirschii</i> Selys 1878		X
<i>Heliogomphus bakeri</i> Laidlaw 1925		X
<i>Paragomphus balneorum</i> (Needham and Gyger, 1937)		X
Gomphidae sp.		X
<b>Aeshnidae</b>		
(one exuvia badly damaged noted)		X
<b>Corduliidae</b>		
<i>Heteronaias heterodoxa</i> (Selys, 1878)		X
<i>Idionyx philippa</i> Ris, 1912		X
<i>Macromia</i> sp. (larvae were noted)		X
<b>Libellulidae</b>		
<i>Agrionoptera insignis</i> (Rambur, 1842)		X
<i>Diplacina bolivari</i> Selys, 1882		X
<i>Diplacina nana</i> Brauer 1868		X
<i>Lathrecista asiatica</i> (Fabricius 1798)		X
<i>Neurothemis ramburii</i> (Bauer, 1866)	X	X
<i>Neurothemis t. terminata</i> Ris 1911		X
<i>Orthetrum pruinosum clelia</i> Selys, 1878)	X	X
<b>Euphaeidae</b>		
<i>Euphaea amphicyana</i> Ris 1930		X
<b>Calopterygidae</b>		
<i>Vestalis melania</i> Selys, 1873		X
<b>Chlorocyphidae</b>		
<i>Cyrano angustior</i> Hamalainen 1989		X
<i>Rhinocypha colorata</i> (Hagen in Selys, 1869)		X
<b>Amphipterygidae</b>		
<i>Devadatta podolestoides basilanensis</i> Laidlaw, 1934		X



Present in the Müller  
collection in the  
RMNH, Leiden                      Found in 2005-2006

### Platystictidae

<i>Drepanosticta aries</i> Needham and Gyger 1941	X	X
<i>Risioenemis appendiculata</i> (Brauer, 1868)	X	X
<i>R. flammea</i> (Selys, 1882)	X	X
<i>R. tendipes</i> (Needham and Gyger) 1941	X	X
<i>Coeliccia dinocerus</i> Laidlaw 1925	X	X

### Protoneuridae

<i>Prodasineura integra</i> (Selys, 1882)	X	X
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### Coenagrionidae

<i>Amphicnemis</i> (cf. <i>lestoides</i> )		X
<i>Amphicnemis</i> (cf. <i>dentifer</i> )		X
<i>Pseudagrion pilidorsum</i> (Brauer, 1868)		X
<i>Teinobasis filamentum</i> Needham and Gyger 1939	X	
<i>Teinobasis</i> sp	X	X

Kalkman@naturalis.nl).

**Rory Dow:** I was collecting in Sarawak from late February to April of 2006, Graham Reels joined me for two shorter periods. This was a very fruitful trip that yielded a number of poorly known species, new records for Sarawak and unnamed species. I am in the process of describing some of the new species now, with various collaborators. One of the highlights for me was a few days spent at Binyo Penyilam, a large peat swamp forest in the Bintulu area, where gomphids were actually abundant and easy to find on the Sg. Penyilam (in Sarawak gomphids are normally very elusive); five species were collected in a short time, including the first *Merogomphus* to be recorded in Sarawak. Another highlight, for which Graham was present, was an attempt to relocate some of the Mount Dulit endemics discovered by the 1932 Oxford University Expedition and described by Kimmins in 1936. The Dulit area is a very difficult one in which to work, one is almost entirely cut off from the outside world, entirely dependant on the local Kenyah people in most respects, and a disturbingly long time away from medical treatment, if needed. Unfortunately we failed in our main goal, because we could find no one living at the foot of the mountain who knew a way up past about 500m, despite promises to the contrary. However we collected useful material at the foot and on the lower slopes of the mountain, including four species from the Platystictidae. The Oxford expedition collected six platystictids at Dulit (of two of these only females were collected, which remain undescribed); only one of these was included in our collection, so that nine species of this family have already been recorded from Mt. Dulit. A final highlight, in my last two days in Sarawak, was the discovery of a small colony of *Bornargiolestes nigra* Kimmins, 1936 (described from Dulit, one of the most poorly known species recorded from Borneo) at Kubah National Park near Kuching. I will be returning to Sarawak in 2007, but unfortunately I am very unlikely to be able to go for such a long period as I did in 2006.

In July I attended the SIO meeting in Hong Kong, and the excellent post-meeting field trip to South China. I went on to Chiang Mai in Thailand for a couple of weeks afterwards, where I was fortunate enough to find *Noguchiphaea yoshikoeae* Asahina, 1976 and other rarities.

Sometime ago Graham and I announced that we would be producing a field-guide to the Odonata of North Borneo; this is on hold at present, for a variety of reasons, but we are working on the first of a series of booklets, to be produced in cooperation with the Sarawak Forestry Corporation, on the Odonata of various national parks in Sarawak. The first booklet covers Kubah National Park, and will include 60+ species. We still intend to produce the field-guide, but not for a few years.

**Vincent Kalkman:** In July 2006 I stayed for five weeks in the Indonesian part of New Guinea. I went there together with Hans Huijbregts, who works on dung beetles, on invitation of the Cenderahwasih University. This university has an active entomology department but lacks expertise on many taxonomic groups. Our 'job' was to present lectures on our taxonomic groups and train local students in collecting, preserving and identifying insects. Most of our time was spent on Yapen, an island of approximately 140 by 40km in the bay (Teluk

Cenderawasih) east of the Birdhead Peninsula. During my time there I managed to collect about 60 species. The island has been attached to the mainland in times with a lower sea level and it is therefore no surprise that the fauna is largely the same as that of northern New Guinea. The material will be published in a paper on the dragonflies of the islands of the Teluk Cenderawasih together with material collected by students on the islands of Biak and Numfor.

One week was spent in the central mountain range of the New Guinea in the village of Borne (about 1000m asl), a village which could only be reached by plane and does not seem to exist on maps. Genera encountered here include for instance *Lochmaecocnemis*, *Idiocnemis*, *Paramecocnemis*, *Torrenticnemis* (only females) all belonging to platycnemid-genera endemic to New Guinea. For my own group, the megapodagrionids, the trip produced only three species of *Argiolestes*. This is not much considering the fact that 32 species are known from New Guinea. The good thing is that I now have a good reason to go back.

#### **Interesting behaviour by *Podolestes chrysopus* Selys, 1886 – Rory Dow**

Whilst investigating an area of remnant secondary peat-swamp forest by the Matang Road, near Kuching in Sarawak, with Graham Reels in January 2006, I observed some interesting behaviour by *Podolestes chrysopus*. As this behaviour does not seem to have recorded before, I give a brief account below, on Vincent Kalkman's suggestion.

Mature males of *P. chrysopus* have red legs, but this colour does not show well in specimens, or in the flash lit photographs I have of the species. Late in the afternoon of January 23rd I entered a small tree fall clearing at the location mentioned above. My eye was caught by a flash of red at the edge of the clearing, about 10 feet away. On investigating I found a male *chrysopus* whose legs were luridly red, perched on the end of a stick. Two less mature males were perched in the vicinity, their legs being a reddish brown. As I watched, one of the immature males flew up and made an attempt to perch on the same stick as the mature male. The mature male immediately took to the air, hovered in front of the intruder and held his legs forward, displaying their colour in the way that some chlorocyphids do. The intruder immediately fled.

#### **Dragonflies of the Malagos Watershed area, Davao City, Philippines – Reagan Villanueva**

During a sampling trip to Missamis Oriental, Mindanao, Philippines in 2004, I found an adult male and a general female of an undescribed *Teinobasis* species. According to Matti Hamalainen, a single unverified/unidentified species of *Teinobasis* is recorded in Eagle Camp, Malagos, Davao City Philippines. He also provided me with the list of twelve species recorded for the area based on the Ronald Muller's odonate collection (now in RMNH, Leiden). The said list includes one undescribed species and one of which was described by Jan van Tol as recent as 2005.

Based on this information I conducted several field trips in the period March 2005 to July 2006. I selected only a small portion of the Malagos Watershed area base on its accessibility. The sites comprise two forest streams approximately 20 metres apart, and explored about 30 metres stretch of each stream.

The study reveals at least 20 additional species for the area. Unfortunately, the species that initiated this study remains elusive and no new material was found. The gomphid fauna is interesting as two species were found in the first stream and the other two in a second. The rest of the species were present in both streams. *Amphicnemis* spp. is also interesting as it shows seasonal population density variation.

I visited only a small portion of the watershed and future exploration of the other sites will probably reveal a more diverse odonate fauna.

## Nominations to the WDA Board of Trustees 2007-2009

In accordance with the WDA Constitution and By Laws, all members of the Board of Trustees, except for the President Elect, resign at the Biennial General Meeting following that at which they took up their posts although all (apart from the President and the Immediate Past President) are eligible for re-election. **Wolfgang Schneider** has agreed to stand for election to the post of President Elect having been formally nominated (by Reinhard Jödicke) and seconded (by Mike May). In addition Rob Arnold will be retiring in April 2007 as Webmaster. **Adolfo Cordero** has been nominated (by Rob Arnold) and seconded (by Hidenori Ubukata) and has agreed to stand for election to this position. Furthermore, the Constitution allows one more position on the Board than is currently occupied, and bearing in mind the UK Charity Commission's desire that residents of the UK be well represented on the Board of Trustees, the Board is pleased to nominate **Keith Wilson** (proposed by Dennis Paulson and seconded by Gordon Pritchard). Should you wish to nominate another member of the WDA for any position on the Board of Trustees (except for President and Immediate Past President) please e-mail the Secretary or complete the following nomination form and return it to the Secretary so that it reaches her no later than 15 February 2007, after which no nominations can be registered. In the event of a vote being required for any position postal/email ballot slips will be issued in February and will need to be returned by 31 March 2007. Please confirm that any nomination is supported by two WDA members and by the person nominated.

### Nominated Board Members for the period 2007-2009 are as follows:

President: Gordon Pritchard

President Elect: Wolfgang Schneider

Immediate Past President: Hidenori Ubukata

Secretary: Linda Averill

Treasurer: David Allan Fitch

Managing Editor: Reinhard Jödicke

Webmaster: Adolfo Cordero

Symposium Co-ordinator: Richard Rowe

Chairman C & F (Funding): Göran Sahlen

C & F (Conservation): Viola Clausnitzer

Trustee: Dennis Paulson

Trustee: Keith Wilson

### Trustee Nomination Form

I, ..... (Write your name here and give your WDA membership number if known) wish to nominate the following WDA member for the office of:

.....

Name and WDA No. of Nominee: ..... (who has agreed to the nomination)

Address of Nominee .....

The nomination is **seconded** by: .....

Please return to the WDA Secretary, 49 James Rd, Kidderminster, DY10 2TR, UK or e-mail your nomination to [Lindamaverill@aol.com](mailto:Lindamaverill@aol.com) by 15 February 2007 at the latest.