

SELYSIA

A NEWS LETTER OF ODONATOLOGY

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A SECOND COLLOQUIUM ON THE ODONATA

We are now beginning the consideration of a second colloquium on the Odonata during 1966. In fact, it had been planned originally to hold such a meeting during the present year. However, the interference with my Odonata research and other activities from October to March by the injury to my hand prevented early planning. Later it became evident that I could not plan such a meeting because of the commitment to participate in the International Beekeeping Congress in Bucharest, August 26-31.

Many of those who attended the first colloquium have expressed an interest and desire to attend another. With this encouragement we are willing to undertake organization of another. I believe we learned many lessons from the meeting in 1963 and can make a second colloquium more pleasant and useful to all who attend. We shall also explore possibilities for publication of the entire meeting.

Early planning, both on the organization and papers or discussions to be presented, is very important. May we receive your thoughts and suggestions on the matter soon? I plan to return to the campus September 15 and I would like to have letters with ideas and suggestions waiting for me at that time.

First of all, a date must be selected. While I believe the summer vacation period, late August or early September, would be the most suitable time, others may find another time more convenient. What days of the week are preferred? How long should the meeting last? There are certain periods when the meeting could not be held here because of other meetings or conferences; the time I have indicated is usually the most available period of the year.

May I have a letter from you about this and other matters of Odonatological interest?

SYMPETRUM STUDY

Mrs. Ling-Chu Tai is engaged in a biosystematic study of the genus Sympetrum. Although her study will concentrate on the American species, she will consider species of other areas to obtain a proper view of the inter-relationships of all the species of the genus. She is studying not only morphological characters of the adults and naiads, but also biological attributes and patterns (ecological, ethological and life history).

We would like to obtain for her use, either by loan or exchange, specimens of naiads, exuvia and adults of all species. We would especially like to have any life history sets of individuals - that is, exuvia of an individual reared from egg to adult or at least through several instars. These will be used to measure particular structures of different instars to determine specific growth rates. She has been able to rear several species from egg to adult and is now working on others. For this purpose she desires living eggs of all possible species.

For most species, at least, these are easily obtained by the capture of mating pairs. The female will begin to extrude eggs almost immediately.

Eggs of those species which oviposit over land may be sent dry in boxes or vials. I presume (but I do not know) that eggs of those species which regularly oviposit in water might best be sent in vials of distilled (or otherwise pure) water. Eggs sent from outside of the United States must be sent under quarantine permit. We shall be glad to forward such a permit to anyone who is willing to send eggs to us.

SELYSIA

A Newsletter of Odonatology

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by
B. Elwood Montgomery

Issued at Intervals
as available news and information warrant

This newsletter is designed to disseminate facts and news about the activities of Odonatologists and Odonatology. It is not intended as a journal nor an organ for the publication of articles or technical papers. The name is based upon that of the "Father of Odonatology," Baron Edmond de Selys Longchamps.

Again, the issuance of the issues of SELYSIA has been delayed far beyond the expected date because of personal preoccupation with other duties and limitation of activity. Upon return in late August, 1964, from a European trip, including participation in the International Congress of Entomology, July 8-16, in London, and study of specimens of Polythoridae and other Odonata at the museums in London, Paris, Brussels and Frankfurt, I made other trips out of Lafayette. With the opening of classes, I found myself teaching two classes - Entomological Literature and Advanced Insect Morphology - which I had not taught for several years. Just when the initial organization of two "new" classes and other academic work seemed complete enough to allow me to resume work with the Odonata I injured my hand. While working in my laboratory I drove a splinter of wood into the muscular tissue at the base of my thumb. Although I had immediate medical attention to what seemed a very minor injury, the wound did not heal. Eventually, a piece of wood of considerable size was located lying against the bone in my thumb and removed. Recovery, then, was immediate and rapid, but I had lost four months work on the Odonata, including preparation of manuscripts, identification of several col-

lections received during this time and the compilation of two issues of SELYSIA.

In order to maintain the proper sequence of the newsletter two numbers are being prepared now, although both are considerably predicated.

Dr. R. D. Bird, P. O. Box 6200, Winnipeg 1, Manitoba, Canada, has indicated that he will retire soon, and wishes to dispose of his library on the Odonata. He would, of course, like for it to go to someone actively working on the Odonata and is willing to sell it for the first reasonable offer received. The list includes 200 or more papers, some bound (both books and volumes of collected articles). A quick survey of the list yielded this "break-down" of papers by authors: Bird-9, Byers-9, Cowley-6, Davis-7, Garman-11, Kennedy-19, Montgomery-7, Muttkowsky-10, Needham-21, Tillyard-4, (including Biology of Dragonflies), Walker-30, Williamson-40, and 1 to 4 for Bick, Borror, Chac, Currie, Donnelly, Gloyd, Kormondy, Lamb, Longfield, Nevin, Ris, Robert, Prenn, Pritchard, Schafer, Schmidt, Whedon, and Whitehouse. As Doctor Bird was working most actively on the Odonata in the early 30's many of the papers in the list are almost impossible to obtain now. Anyone interested may obtain a complete list of the papers from Doctor Bird.

A small unnamed lake near Lake Grantpurt, Victoria, Australia, with a total dissolved solids content of 22,002 p.p.m., yielded on (third or fourth instar?) larva of Ischnura aurora (Brauer) (det. A. F. O'Farrell). Mr. W. D. Williams (Monash University, Victoria) reported this as the only odonatan found in his limnological survey of a number of saline lakes in Victoria and South Australia.

I. aurora is one of several "Opportunist" species, often colonizing temporary pools, which are reported in the literature from time to time as "salt tolerant" but precise information on upper limits of such tolerance in nature seems to be scarce. It would therefore be appreciated if anyone having such information (for any species of Odonata) would communicate with Prof. A. F. O'Farrell, Dept. of Zoology, Univ. of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia.

DIRECTORY OF WORKERS

This is a continuation of the list of names and addresses of all those known to me to be interested in the Odonata. It is intended to include both technical workers and amateurs. Earlier portions of the list were published in the first two issues of SELYSIA - North American workers in the March 15, 1963, issue, and those of other English speaking countries, of South America and a supplement to the North American list in the November 15, 1963, issue.

These names and addresses have been compiled from several sources and I wish to thank my many correspondents who have furnished very valuable help in making up the list.

Many of the entries may contain errors and some are incomplete. I shall be very glad, indeed, to have errors and omissions reported. In particular, I would like to receive corrections of any titles which are incorrect or improper. (I offer apologies to those for whom I have used incorrect titles.) Some of the entries may be partly in English and partly in the language of the worker (or in some cases that of the correspondent who furnished the name and address). I shall be glad to know of any changes which should be made.

The names are arranged in alphabetical order within each country; countries are also listed in alphabetical (English) order for Europe, Asia and Africa respectively.

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Odonata as Indicators of Water Pollution

We are initiating a new project in the investigation of possible pollution of water from the use of insecticides on the watersheds of farm ponds. We are using Odonata as indicators of water contamination, although we have noted some published data on stream studies which indicate that the Odonata are probably relatively resistant. For this reason we may also include some Ephemeroptera and Plecoptera. Our plan for the work envisions about four years for the project. During the present season we shall try to assemble and outfit our equipment and develop methods of sampling. This will be followed by one year of work to establish the level of normal populations in the ponds, a year during which insecticides will be applied to watersheds of two of the ponds and a final year to study residual effects and/or to note the restoration of any populations reduced by the treatments.

The project will be located on an experimental farm with 15 ponds from which the test ponds will be chosen. Many other areas of investigations as chemical analysis of the accumulation of residues in soil and water, effects on terrestrial insects, micro-organisms, aquatic vertebrates, etc., will be included in the project (conducted by several other workers, of course).

Our preliminary plans call for sampling the fauna of the ponds every two weeks throughout the year except when the water is covered by ice.

We shall be glad to exchange ideas and findings with anyone who has had experience in any phase of the work - sampling to determine naiaid populations, response of Odonata to water contamination of any kind, etc.