

S E L Y S I A

A NEWS LETTER OF ODONATOLOGY

Vol. 2 No. 2

Lafayette, Indiana

December 15, 1964

ODONATA COLLECTIONS

In earlier issues we have included notes on several museum collections of Odonata. In the second issue (Nov. 15, 1963) Dr. Oliver S. Flint, Jr., furnished a rather detailed description of the U. S. National Museum Collection. A blank upon which information concerning collections could be furnished was included as a supplement to that issue. Over 30 of these forms were returned, some with further written descriptions of the collections. Information from these blanks concerning the collections at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, the National Museum at Bulawayo, Southern Rhodesia and the Academy of Sciences at Erevan, Armenian S. S. R., was summarized in the issue of April 30, 1964 (v.2, #1).

We are giving below brief notes on a few additional Museum collections.

Dr. D. E. Kimmins furnished data on the great collection in the British Museum (Natural History), Cromwell Road, London, S.W. 7, to which I have added a few notes. The collection is contained in 40 standard cabinets (800 drawers), plus several non-standard cabinets and boxes housing the Fraser collections. Holotypes are housed in separate cabinets. "Duplicates" or late acquisitions are sometimes in additional drawers. Thus, the specimens of a species may be distributed among three or four drawers in different cabinets. However, all specimens of any particular species may be located easily from the catalogue of the collection. This catalogue is arranged alphabetically by species, including synonyms, with citation of the cabinets and drawers containing any specimens of the species. Another systematic catalogue enables a worker to find all species of any genus or higher taxon.

The collections are arranged by families, genera and species in more or less "natural" order. Most of the specimens are spread and pinned, but a large number from Fraser are in papers.

This is probably the most representative and extensive in species (not in number of specimens) in the world. All regions are well represented.

Notable collections found here include those of Kirby, Godman (Biologia Centrali Americana), Tillyard, McLachlan and several others. McLachlan, especially, was working at the same time as other pioneers of Odonatology—Selys, Hagen, Brauer, etc. These early workers appear to have exchanged specimens rather extensively; Selys distributed examples from type series to the other workers. Thus, paratypes of several Selysian species came to the B.M. (N.H) through the McLachlan Collection.

Information on two collections in Australia was furnished by Prof. A. F. O'Farrell on a collection in the Zoology Dept., of the University of New England, Armidale, N.S.W., and by Dr. E. P. Hodgkin for the Western Australian Museum, Perth, W. Aust.

The collection at Armidale contains about 1000 specimens of 170 species. These are mostly Australian with representatives of about 80% of the eastern temperate species, but a few from Japan and Africa have been obtained by exchange. The material is mainly pinned; some in rectangular envelopes, some in 70% alcohol. The collection is being actively developed and exchange material is welcomed. Unless otherwise requested dried specimens in rectangular cellophane envelopes will be sent; pinned material is not shipped, but specimens can be supplied in spirit if desired.

(cont. page 2)

SELYSIA

A Newsletter of Odonatology

Department of Entomology, Purdue University
Lafayette, Indiana

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.

One of my most pleasant experiences during the year was the opportunity to participate in a meeting of Odonatologists during the XIIth International Congress of Entomology in London. Through the kindness of the secretary of the Congress the Council Room of the Royal Entomological Society of London was made available on Thursday evening, July 9.

By previous correspondence and by personal contacts during Wednesday, the first day of the Congress, all those in attendance at the Congress, or present in the vicinity of London, who might be interested were informed of the time and place.

A considerable number of those interested were in attendance at a reception given by the South London Entomological and Natural History Society in the rooms of the Linnean Society earlier in the evening. At an appropriate time Miss Cynthia Longfield very efficiently marshalled all the Odonatologists into available cars and taxis for the trip to South Kensington.

Unfortunately, no notes were taken at the meeting and these remarks are entirely from memory which is still most pleasant and enjoyable, but may be less accurate after several months.

There were 16 individuals from 8 countries present - Corbet from Canada, Longfield from Eire, Burton, Cowley, Gambles, Gardner, Kimmins and Ward of England, Pajunen from Finland, Conci from Italy, Lieftinck from Holland, Morgan and Waterston from Scotland, Pinhey from Southern Rhodesia, Watson and Montgomery from the United States. Discussions of migration of dragonflies, rearing from egg to adult, habitats of African and European (*Macromia splendens*), and other topics continued until the building attendant asked us to leave so that he could close the doors - long after the usual hours!

ODONATA COLLECTIONS
(cont. from page 1)

The collection at the Western Australian Museum is local - southwestern Australia is well represented in the collection of 300 specimens of about 35 species, with two holotypes.

Many years ago I saw, but did not study the collection of Odonata in the Australian Museum in Sydney. If I remember correctly it consisted almost entirely of Australian material collected by Tillyard, but contained no types. As noted above Tillyard's types and his non-Australian material (perhaps, also some of his Australian collections in addition to types) went to the British Museum.

The Zoological Museum of the University, Helsinki, Finland, contains a collection of Odonata containing about 5000 specimens of about 600 species. The collection is in charge of Dr. Walter Hackman, curator of the Division of Entomology. All Finnish species are represented, with series from most parts of the country. This collection is made up of material from many collectors. The remainder of the collection, including 153 species from the Palearctic Region, outside of Finland and 460 species from other parts of the world, is mainly from the collection of K. J. Valle. (Valle's Finnish collection is in the University of Turku.) The collection is partly pinned and partly in triangular envelopes. It is in three parts: 1) Finnish collection, 2) Palearctic collection and 3) "Exotic" coll., including Nearctic material.