

S E L Y S I A

A NEWS LETTER OF ODONATOLOGY

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COMMON (FOLK) NAMES FOR ODONATA

A considerable amount of information on common names and other dragonfly folklore has been received. I appreciate all this information which has been received from many individuals. It has included original data on the names in use in many areas, citations of names given in published works (some non-entomological), and references to complete books on the subject. In many cases copies of the references (including one book) were furnished. Most of this information would not have been found by my own efforts.

Complete compilation of the material is not possible yet, but the following list of English names has been made up. All of these were cited as in use in English-speaking areas, but obviously some are Gaelic, and, at least, one French.

These names may be classified into 7 categories - those derived from supposed relationship or connection with snakes (1-21), or the devil (22-27), those with reference to the supposed ability to sting or otherwise injure man or animal (28-36), those referring to the resemblance of the insect's body to a needle, or of its flight to the movement of a spinning needle (37-46), those with reference to other features of the appearance, habit or habitat of the insect (47-58), names of other animals sometimes applied to dragonflies (59-64), and those (in contrast to most of the names) with pleasant or beautiful implications by referring to maiden or lady. Of course, some, as adderbolt, snake-stang, ether's nild, and devil's darning needle, could be placed in two or more categories.

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|---------------|--------------------|
| 1. adderbolt | 7. dragonfly |
| 2. adderfly | 8. edther |
| 3. atherbell | 9. ether's nild |
| 4. atherbill | 10. ether's mon |
| 5. ather-cap | 11. fleeing aither |
| 6. bull adder | 12. fleeing ask |

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|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 13. fleeing snake | 39. green darner |
| 14. flying adder | 40. granny's needle |
| 15. flying asp | 41. silverpin |
| 16. horse adder | 42. spindle |
| 17. penny adder | 43. spindler |
| 18. snake doctor | 44. spinner |
| 19. snake feeder | 45. spinneroo |
| 20. snake-stang
(snake's stang) | 46. spinnin' Jennie |
| 21. stangin ether | 47. balance fly |
| 22. bad man's needle | 48. fire flee |
| 23. devil's darning
needle | 49. heather-bill |
| 24. devil's needle | 50. heatherflee |
| 25. devil's riding
horse | 51. Jacky breeze |
| 26. Dickinson's
horse | 52. Jacky breezer |
| 27. Dickinson's
mare | 53. kiteflee |
| 28. bullstang | 54. leather wing |
| 29. bull-tang | 55. mosquito hawk |
| 30. bull-ting | 56. Tom breeze |
| 31. cow killer | 57. Tom breezer |
| 32. mule killer | 58. woodwig |
| 33. horse-long-
cripple | 59. hobby-horse |
| 34. horse-stang | 60. coach-horse |
| 35. horse-stinger | 61. king fisher |
| 36. hoss stinger | 62. locust |
| 37. blue needle | 63. peacock |
| 38. darning needle | 64. water butterfly |
| | 65. damsel fly
(damosel fly) |
| | 66. demoiselle |
| | 67. lady fly |
| | 68. merry may
(= May maid) |

Two titles on dragonfly names may be added to those cited in Selysia, v.3, #2.

SAROT, E. E., 1958, Folklore of the Dragonfly: A Linguistic Approach. Roma, Edizioni di Storia e Letterature. 80 pp.

NITSCHKE, GEORG, 1965, Die Namen der Libelle. Wörterbuch der Deutschen Tiernamen, Beiheft 3. Deutsche Akademie der Wissenschaften zu Berlin, Institut für deutsche Sprache und Literature. 41 pp.

SECOND PURDUE COLLOQUIUM ON THE ODONATA
August 21-23, 1966 Details on page 3.

SELYSIA

EXCHANGES

A Newsletter of Odonatology

Compiled at
Department of Entomology, Purdue University
Lafayette, Indiana
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.

The Odonatologist always tells people that in spite of the many baneful names given to the dragonfly, and the frightful attributes accorded it in folklore, it is entirely harmless and cannot injure anyone at all. However, individuals of many species do bite. The collector usually must be careful in removing dragonflies from the net as they will frequently bite the fibers and hold on so firmly that the head will be pulled off. I have been bitten by several species when removing specimens from the net. Of course, these "nips" are harmless, never pierce the skin, and are barely noticeable to the average "tough-skinned" collector of snake feeders. One species which has a more severe bite than average is Tachopteryx thoreyi. I have been bitten almost every time I have taken this quite rare species. The average individual with a horror of insect bites and stings would recoil from the jaws of this dragonfly.

In a recent letter, Dr. Thomas Donnelly wrote, "Incidentally, I can tell you one reason that dragonflies are reputed to sting; they really do! A female Coryphaeschna viriditas that I took in Trinidad last spring stuck me with her ovipositor, and it really hurt!"

Sometime ago Mr. Alois Bilek submitted the following notice for Selysia.

Odonata from U.S.A. wanted in exchange for those of Europe, prepared first rate, or for Dias (color) taken of living specimens.

Alois Bilek
Zoologische Sammlung
des Bayerischen Staates
Schloss Nymphenburg (Nordflügel)
8 München 19 (Germany)

Two other requests for material have been received recently.

1. Dr. Paul Munchberg, 477 Soest/Westf., Windmühleng 93, Germany, wants dragonfly wings with considerable amounts of color for a study of the chemistry of the pigments. He is especially interested in forms with light brown, yellow, red or black bands or spots. He would probably need 50-100 wings of a species; the wings may be removed and sent in an envelope.

2. Mr. Harold B. White, Graduate Department of Biochemistry, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, 02154, has planned a biochemical study of Odonata. He needs $\frac{1}{2}$ to one pound of a species. The material must be sent live, frozen, or freeze dried.

Anyone able to furnish the type of material desired by either of these Odonatologists should communicate directly with him.

This column is open for announcements of exchanges desired, or for requests for Odonatological material. Notices will be included in the next issue after they have been received.

We are trying to complete a bibliography of papers on the Odonata by R. P. Longinos Navas. Copies of our lists will be exchanged with anyone who is interested in helping with such a compilation.

Bibliographies of other workers, including Selys, Hagen, McLachlan, Kirby, Martin, Ris, Laidlaw, Fraser, etc., are also available.

SECOND COLLOQUIUM ON THE ODONATA
Memorial Center, Purdue University
August 21-23, 1966

The second colloquium on the Odonata has been planned for August 21-23, 1966, as announced in the December 1, 1965, issue of Selysia. All local arrangements have been approved, but the program has not been completed. Furthermore, the discussions will be more or less informal, will not be recorded and the proceedings will not be published.

In March I asked several people to act as organizers, to select panels of speakers and arrange programs on the following subjects:

1. Photography (technique more than exhibition, although any prints, slides, and films "entered" long enough before the meeting to allow proper planning can be shown) Mrs. Donald Ries
2. Population sampling and estimates Mr. Vinnedge Lawrence
3. Behavior Dr. George Bick
4. Seasonal life history and influence of climatic factors
5. Geographical distribution Dr. Minter J. Westfall
6. Rearing techniques and procedures Dr. Clifford Johnson

It was my hope and intention at that time that I would give no further attention to the program. However, the "organizers" have encountered considerable difficulties - Dr. E. J. Kormondy, whom I asked to organize Topic 4, has a conflicting commitment which will prevent him from attending and several others found it far from easy to line up panel members. Nevertheless, the colloquium will be organized approximately as outlined above with the addition of a session devoted to reports on current work. This latter should be a most interesting and valuable part of the meeting. It will provide an exchange of experiences and ideas, promote co-operation and prevent duplication. (See request for such information below).

Since the time is rather short I am making the following request to all who are willing to lead a discussion or serve on a panel. Unless you have already been in communication with one of the organizers please send me at once an outline or summary of the presentation you are willing to give. These will be duplicated and

outlines of all topics on the program will be duplicated and distributed to all who attend, hopefully before the meeting so that there will be a basis for a more thoughtful discussion than may be possible without advance knowledge of the material to be presented.

Also, please let me know at once if you plan to attend. Do not allow lack of such notice prevent you from coming, but advance information of the probable attendance will be most helpful.

Anyone who wishes to spend time consulting the indices and bibliography may come as long before the meeting as desired. Unfortunately, it will be necessary for me to leave Lafayette almost as soon as the meeting closes and as all of my graduate students will be away the laboratory will be closed.

REPORT OF CURRENT WORK

As indicated above some time will be given to a discussion of current work during the Colloquium. It should be very helpful to anyone to know what others are doing. Therefore, if everyone who is actively working with the Odonata (or even has great interest, since sharing interests may lead to active projects) will send a description of his projects and interests, these will be summarized for the meeting and later publication in Selysia.

MORE ODONATA FOLK NAMES?

Although we have accumulated much information on folk names in many languages, more will be most welcome. Judging from the number tabulated for Italian, German, English and Celtic we have obtained only a small proportion of the names of other languages. Among those for which we have received few or none are: French, Provencal, Catalan, Spanish, Galician, Portuguese, Hungarian, Polish, Slovene, Russian, Greek, Finnish, the Scandinavian languages and dialects (to mention only a few of the more common languages of Europe), African, mid-eastern and Oriental.

More information of such names appears to be available from specialists and books in the following fields, than from entomologists: folklore, anthropology, linguistics and travel.