

***Cordulegaster coronata* in eastern Afghanistan (Odonata: Cordulegasteridae)**

Thomas Schneider¹, Igor G. Plyushch², Andy Vierstraete³ & Dietmar Ikenmeyer⁴

¹ Arnold-Knoblauch-Ring 76, 14109 Berlin-Wannsee, Germany; thomas.rs@gmx.de

¹ Ehrenamtlicher Mitarbeiter Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

² Shmalhausen Institute of Zoology, NAS of Ukraine, B. Khmelnytsky 15, Kyiv, 01601, Ukraine

³ Department of Biology, University of Gent, 9000 Gent, Belgium; Andy.Vierstraete@ugent.be

⁴ Billerbecker Str. 6, 48329 Havixbeck, Germany; DKJIKemeyer@t-online.de

Abstract. In the last decades only a little knowledge has been gained regarding the Odonata fauna of Afghanistan, principally due to ongoing conflict within the country. Nevertheless, Ukrainian scientists have visited there in recent years, mainly to study Lepidoptera and Coleoptera. During one expedition in the Paghman-Dara mountains at an altitude of 2 500 m a.s.l. ca 20 km west of Kabul a female of *Cordulegaster coronata* (Morton, 1916) was collected. No further specimens of this species were seen.

Further key words. Dragonfly, Anisoptera, faunistic, Central Asia

Why did William Elford Leach call a small damselfly a ‘pirate’? – Revisiting the etymology of the genus *Lestes* (Odonata: Lestidae)

Matti Hämäläinen¹ & Heinrich Fliedner²

¹Naturalis Biodiversity Center, Leiden, the Netherlands; matti.hamalainen@helsinki.fi

²Louis-Seegelken-Str. 106, 28717 Bremen, Germany; H.Fliedner@t-online.de

Abstract. We present evidence supporting the widely accepted interpretation that the genus name *Lestes* Leach, 1815, is based on the Greek masculine word ληστής [*lēstēs*] meaning ‘robber or pirate’. Comparison of Leach’s brief definition of *Lestes* with that of the genus *Agrion* Fabricius, 1775, from which the new genus was split, suggests that W.E. Leach selected the piratical name because the males of species in this genus are armed with pincer-shaped appendages; hence the name is an allusion to the edged weapons carried by pirates. The common view that the name was suggested by the voracious predatory behaviour of lestids, as well as the interpretation that the genus name is based on the French word *leste* [= nimble] are both rejected.

Further key words. Damselfly, Zygoptera, history of odonatology, cutlass

Records of little-known Odonata from south-western Saudi Arabia

Martin Waldhauser¹, Andy Vierstraete² & Thomas Schneider^{3,4}

¹ Nature Conservation Agency of the Czech Republic, U Jezu 10, 46001 Liberec, Czech Republic; martin.waldhauser@nature.cz

² Department of Biology, University of Gent, 9000 Gent, Belgium; Andy.Vierstraete@ugent.be

³ Arnold-Knoblauch-Ring 76, 14109 Berlin-Wannsee, Germany; thomas.rs@gmx.de

⁴ Ehrenamtlicher Mitarbeiter Museum für Naturkunde Berlin, Germany

Abstract. During a short trip to south-western Saudi Arabia focusing on the Asir Mountains in November 2022, 27 species of Odonata were found. The occurrence of species known from Saudi Arabia, albeit from data older than 50 years (*Diplacodes lefebvreii* and *Crocothemis sanguinolenta*), was confirmed. New localities of some previously only scarcely reported species were discovered, viz. *Pseudagrion sublacteum*, *Anax speratus*, *Paragomphus sinaiticus*, *Brachythemis impartita*, *Nesciothemis farinosa*, *Trithemis dejouxi* and presumed *Pseudagrion arabicum*, on which DNA analysis was performed.

Further key words. Dragonfly, damselfly, Anisoptera, Zygoptera, Arabian Peninsula