New Records of Dragonflies (Insecta: Odonata: Anisoptera) From Chhatarpur District, Bundelkhand, Madhya Pradesh, India with Their Conservation Status and Distribution

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(Received on: 4 May, 2012; accepted on: 28 June, 2012)

ABSTRACT

The present communication deals with the dragonflies of Chhatarpur district, Bundelkhand Division, Madhya Pradesh (India), all of which are the new records for the district and some to the Division. Interestingly, some of these species are found common both with western (Gulf and around) and south-east Asian countries. Further, as regards their conservation status, none of these species is ‘Threatened’ under IUCN Red List.

Key Words: New Records, Dragonflies, Bundelkhand, Conservation

INTRODUCTION

The Odonate fauna of Madhya Pradesh State (Central India) and around has attracted the attention of various workers during the past (Mitra, 1988, 1995; Srivastava & Suri Babu, 1997; Suri Babu & Srivastava, 2001; Mishra, 2007; Prasad, 1966; Prasad & Mishra, 2008; Tiple et al., 2012) but no record from Chhatarpur district in Bundelkhand Division is available. In the present communication an attempt has been made to study and identify dragonflies (Anisopterans) of Chhatarpur district, based on photographs provided by one of the authors (HJH).

These belong to six species, six genera under a single family (Libellulidae) and recorded here for the first time from the district and out of these four species viz. Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum, Potamarcha congener, Diplacodes trivialis and Trithemis aurora are new to the Division. Fortunately, none of these species is Threatened and all fall under ‘Least Concern’ of ‘Low Risk Category’ of IUCN Red List.

Systematic account with conservation status and distribution

Order: Odonata Fabricius, 1793
Suborder: Epiprocta Lohmann, 1996
Infraorder: Anisoptera Selys, 1854
Family: Libellulidae Rambur, 1842
Subfamily: Libellulinae
Genus: Orthetrum Newman, 1833

1. Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum (Rambur, 1842)
   Crimson-tailed Marsh Hawk
   Libellula neglecta Rambur, 1842. Ins. Nevrop.: 86

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Orthoterum petalura, Kirby, 1890. Cat. Odon.: 39.

Conservation Status: IUCN Red List: Least Concern (as Orthetrum pruinosum) (Sharma, 2010).

Material Examined: 1 ex., Chhatarpur district, Bundelkhand Division, Madhya Pradesh.

Diagnostic Features: Robust species with unique violet abdomen; wings hyaline enflumed with pale-brown toward apices in aged adults and basal marking extending distawards in hind wing, pterostigma reddish-brown to black over two cells.

Male: Frons dark brown to black; prothorax and thorax reddish-brown to dull purple Basal marking in hind wing reddish-brown

Female: Frons pale oliveaceous-brown; thorax reddish brown or dull ochreous with a faint brown
stripe on each side of dorsum; basal marking in hind wing paler and almost obsolete

**Distribution:**

**Chhatarpur District:** New record.

**Bundelkhand Division:** New record.

**Madhya Pradesh:** As above and Jabalpur, Seoni and Umaria districts.

**India:** Throughout. Andaman Islands, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

**Elsewhere:** Australia, Bangladesh, Cambodia, China (including Taiwan, Tibet), Hong Kong, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Viet Nam.

**Remarks:** Species name *congener* (Rambur, 1842: 70) instead of *obscura* (Rambur, 1842: 64) has been followed here. — Following Prasad and Varshney (1995), Martin & Dennis (2012), Mishra (2007), Subramanian (2005, 2009) and other literature.

**Subfamily:** Sympetrinae

**Genus:** *Bradinopyga* Kirby, 1893

3. *Bradinopyga geminata* (Rambur, 1842)

**Granite Ghost/Indian Rock-dweller**


**Conservation Status:** IUCN Red List: Least Concern (Mitra, 2010).

**Material Examined:** 1 ex., Chhatarpur district, Bundelkhand Division, Madhya Pradesh.

**Diagnostic Features:** Medium-sized grey dragonfly with black and white markings. Male: Eyes brownish above, grayish below; thorax grey, marbled and peppered with black and lighter grey; abdomen abdomen with 5 light-grayish bands; wings transparent, pterostigma black in centre and white at both ends; anal appendage pale creamy-white. Sexual Dimorphism: Anal appendage half as long in female than that of male.

**Distribution:**

**Chhatarpur District:** New record.

**Bundelkhand Division:** As above (new record) and Datia district.
Madhya Pradesh: As above and Chhindwara, Gwalior, Jabalpur and Morena districts.

India: Andhra Pradesh, Assam (doubtful), Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Delhi, Haryana, Karnataka, Kerala (Kottayam, Trivandrum-Varkala), Maharashtra (Mumbai: Pali), Meghalaya (doubtful), Nagaland (doubtful), Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. From sea-level to 457.2 m (1,500 ft).


Genus: Diplacodes Kirby, 1889 (Perchers)

4. Diplacodes trivialis (Rambur, 1842)

Chalky Percher/ Ground Skimmer

Libellula bramina Fabricius, 1798.


Libellula phalerata Uhler, 1858.


Diplacodes remotia Ris, 1911.

Conservation Status: IUCN Red List: Least Concern (Subramaniam, 2010).

Material Examined: 2 exs. (male and female), Chhatarpur district, Bundelkhand Division, Madhya Pradesh.

Diagnostic Features: Small greenish-yellow or bluish species.

Male: Face bluish-green; eyes reddish-brown above, bluish or yellowish below; thorax greenish-yellow or olivaceous, dorso-laterally violet-brown and speckled with fine dots; abdominal segments 1-7 greenish-yellow with mid-dorsal and sub-dorsal black stripes, rest blackish; wings transparent; pterostigma grey to black, appendage yellowish.

Female: Like young or subadult. Abdominal markings broader and continued on segments 8-10, 10th segment and anal appendage more yellowish.

Distribution:

Chhatarpur District: New record.

Bundelkhand Division: New Record.

Madhya Pradesh: Gwalior, Jabalpur and Mandsaur districts.

India: Andaman & Nicobar Islands, Andhra Pradesh (Hyderabad), Arunachal Pradesh, Bihar, Chandigarh, Chhattisgarh (Sarguja (Ambikapur) and Raigarh dists.), Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Odisha, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. plains to 2133.6 m (7000 ft).

Elsewhere: Australia, Bangladesh, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, China (including Taiwan), Fiji, Hong Kong, Indonesia, China, Israel, Japan, Lao PDR, Malacca, Malaysia, FS Micronesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Pacific Islands, Philippines, Ryudys, Seychelles, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Subfamily: Pantalinae

Genus: Pantala Hagen, 1861 (Rain-pool Gliders)

5. Pantala flavescens (Fabricius, 1797)

Globe Skimmer/ Wandering Glider


Libellula viridula Palisot de Beauvois, 1805. Ins. Afr. Et Amer.: 69, pl. 3, fig. 4


Sympetrum tandicoda Singh, 1955 (vide World Odonata List)


Material Examined: 3 exs., Chhatarpur district, Bundelkhand Division, Madhya Pradesh.

Diagnostic Features: Medium-sized and robust species. Head front yellowish to reddish, eyes chestnut-red. Hair thorax and abdomen usually yellow to golden (sometimes brown or olive) with a dark line. Wings clear, may be yellowish towards tip very broad at base (some specimens with olive, brown and yellow wings), pterostigma yellowish and body (prothorax, abdomen and anal appendages) bright ochreous, dorsum tinted with bright brick-red, segment sides 1-4 yellowish and 8-10 with pyriform black spots.

Sexual Dimorphism: Male: Face bright golden yellow or orange, eyes reddish-brown above, bluish-grey on sides and below; thorax hairy, olivaceous or rusty; abdomen reddish-brown, tinted with brick-red above, segments 8-10 with black spots above; wings transparent, hind wing base amber yellow, pterostigma reddish-brown. Wings darker and longer front and shorter hind wings than those of females.

Female: Mostly like males except eyes olivaceous-brown above; face vivid chrome-yellow abdomen without red colouration above, wings smoky.
**Distribution:**

**Chhatarpur District:** New record.

**Bundelkhand Division:** As above (new record) and Datia district.

**Madhya Pradesh:** Gwalior and Jabalpur districts.

**India:** Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Rajasthan, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

**Elsewhere:** Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Bahamas, Belize, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Rep, Chad, Chile, China (including Taiwan, Tibet), Colombia, Comoros, DR Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d’Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Dominican Rep, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, French Guinea, Greece, Guaramala, Guinea, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mexico, Morocco, Mosambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, N Mariana Islands, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Qatar, Reunion, Sao Tome & Principe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Island, Somalia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, UR Tanzania, Thailand, Togo, Trinidad & Tobago, Turkey, Uganda, UAE, Uruguay, Venenzuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Benin, Burundi, Canada, Djibouti, Eritrea, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Jordan, DPR Korea, Libya, Portugal, Rwanda, Spain, Syria and UK (doubtful).

Subfamily: Trithemistinae

Genus: *Trithemis* Brauer, 1868 (Drop-wings)

6. **Trithemis aurora** (Burmeister, 1839)

**Cromson Marsh Glider**


*Trithemis fraterna* Albarda, 1881. Veths. Midden Sumatra, Neur: 4


*Trithemis congener* Kirby, 1890. Cat. Odon.: 18.


**Conservation Status:** IUCN red List: Least Concern (Subramaniam, 2010).

**Material Examined:** 2 exs., Chhatarpur district, Bundelkhand Division, Madhya Pradesh.

**Diagnostic Features:** A medium-sized dragonfly. Males and females distinctly different as under:

**Sexual Dimorphism:**

Male: Face reddish brown changing to reddish above, eyes crimson above and brown on sides; thorax red with a fine purple pruinescence; abdomen having swollen base, crimson with a violet tinge; wings transparent with crimson venation and base with a broad amber patch, wing spots (pterostigma) dark reddish-brown and legs black.

Female: Face olivaceous or bright reddish-brown and eyes purplish-brown above and grey below; thorax olivaceous with brown median and black lateral stripes; abdomen reddish-brown with median and lateral black markings (confluent at end of each segment and enclose a reddish-brown spot); wings transparent with brown tips, venation bright yellow to brown and basal amber markings pale, wing spots (pterostigma) dark brown and lags dark grey with narrow yellow stripes.

**Distribution:**

**Chhatarpur District:** New record.

**Bundelkhand Division:** New record.

**Madhya Pradesh:** Betul, Chhindwara, Jabalpur, Mandsaur and Ujjain.

**India:** Assam, Chhatisgarh (Sarguja district), Delhi, Meghalaya, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. Up to about 1219.2 (4000 ft).

**Elsewhere:** China (including Taiwan and Tibet), Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor and Viet Nam.

**CONCLUSION**

**Distribution:** Chhatarpur District: Six species of dragonflies viz. *Orthetrum pruinosum neglectum*, *Potamarcha congener*, *Diplacodes trivialis*, *Bradinopyga geminata*, *Pantala flavescens* and *Trithemis aurora* are being recorded for the first time from Chhatarpur district of Bundelkhand Division in Madhya Pradesh.

**Bundelkhand Division:** Four species viz. *O. pruinosum neglectum*, *P. congener*, *D. trivialis* and *T. aurora* are new to this Division of Madhya Pradesh.
**Conservation Status:** All the six species dealt here are classified as ‘Least Concern’ under Lower Risk category of IUCN red List of Threatened Species.

**Zoogeography:** South-Eastward Distribution: *Orthetrum pruinimum neglectum*, *Potamarcha congener* and *Trithemis aurora* are found further east (to Indonesia, Philippines etc.), *Bradinopyga geminata* up to Thailand only.

South-East and Westward Distribution: *Diplacodes trivialis* and *Pantala flavescens* is widely distributed and is found both in south-east (Indonesia, Philippines etc.) and west (Gulf areas) locations.

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The authors feel grateful to the heads of their respective departments (Director, Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata and Officer-in-Charge, ZSI, NRC, Dehra Dun and ZSI, DRC, Jodhpur and Director, Bunder Project & Manager, Ore Body Knowledge, Bunder Project, Rio Tinto Diamonds, New Delhi) for encouragement and facilities. Our special thanks to Dr. S.S. Tamale, ZSI, CZRC, Jabalpur (M.P.) for kindly identifying *Potamarcha congener* (Rambur, 1842).

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