



New Records of Odonates from Andaman and Nicobar Islands

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INTRODUCTION

The Odonata is one of the primitive and ancient insect orders. It is very diverse and is the second largest aquatic insect order. Dragonflies are predaceous, hemimetabolous and amphibiotic insects, which inhabits all kinds of freshwater habitats either permanent or temporary. Odonata experiences two totally different life styles. In almost all cases, the egg and larval stages are aquatic where as the adults are terrestrial (Silsby, 2001). The prey of the adults consists mostly of the harmful insects of crops, orchards and forests and thus has a regulatory impact on the agro forestry. Total of 470 species under 139 genera and 19 families were reported in India (Subramanian, 2009), of which 45 species under 31 genera and 11 families have been recorded in Andaman and Nicobar Islands by various workers (Fraser, 1933, 1934 & 1936; Chhotani et al., 1983; Lahiri and Mitra, 1993). Recently, Mitra (2002) reported 32 species from Nicobar Group of Islands. During the recent faunal surveys conducted in Richie's archipelago, we have recorded four species of dragonflies which are new to Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The diagnosis, distribution and systematic position of each species are presented in this paper.

SYSTEMATIC ACCOUNT

Order : Odonata

Suborder : Zygoptera

Family- Libellulidae

1. *Zyxomma petiolatum* Rambur

India Odon., 3: 409-410.

2007, *Zyxomma petiolatum* Rambur, Rec. ZSI Occ. Paper 269: 186.

Diagnosis: Eyes metallic green, face olivaceous, thorax chocolate brown, legs ferruginous, wings hyaline with brown tips, abdomen red brown with black circle at each segment and swollen at upper half then abruptly thin.

Distribution: throughout India.

2. *Tramea limbata similata* (Rambur)

1936, *Tramea limbata similata* (Rambur), Fauna of British India Odon., 3: 436-438.

2007, *Tramea limbata similata* (Rambur), Rec. ZSI Occ. Paper 269: 184.

Diagnosis: Upper half of eyes dark brown, lower half olivaceous, thorax olivaceous with reddish dorsum, wings hyaline, abdomen blood red with lower abdominal segments marked with black.

Distribution: South India, Sri Lanka.



Zyxomma petiolatum



Tramea limbata similata

3. *Diplacodes nebulosa* (Fabricius).

1936, *Diplacodes nebulosa* (Fabricius), Fauna of British India Odon., 3: 335-336.

2007, *Diplacodes nebulosa* (Fabricius), Rec. ZSI Occ. Paper 269: 161.

Diagnosis: Eyes brown, face pale brown, thorax and abdomen black with yellow lines, wings hyaline with brown tips.

Distribution: Throughout India.

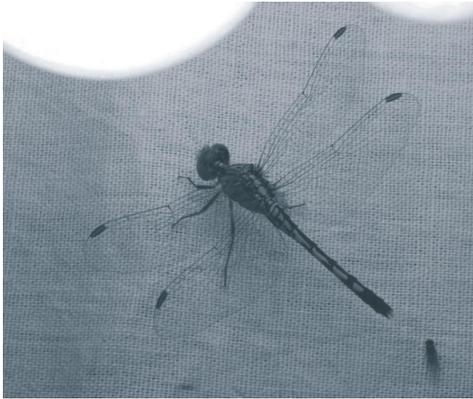
4. *Cratilla lineata* (Brauer)

1936, *Cratilla lineata* Forster, Fauna of British India Odon., 3: 286-288.

2005, *Cratilla lineata* (Brauer), Pictorial Handbook on Common Dragonflies and Damselflies of Kerala: 34p.

Diagnosis: Upper half of eyes red brown and lower half pale, face pale yellow, thorax dark ash marked with yellow, abdomen black with some fine orange yellow stripes, wings hyaline with smoky tinge and brown tips.

Distribution: Throughout India



Diplacodes nebulosa



Cratilla lineata

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