

ODONATA FROM TAHITI *

By

JAMES G. NEEDHAM

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Specimens of five species of adult dragonflies from Society Islands are included in the collection sent me for determination by the Pacific Entomological Survey. Nymphs of three of the species are represented. In a recent paper¹ I have described one of the new species collected by the Survey in the Marquesas.

L. E. Cheesman² collected in Society Islands one of the five species mentioned in this paper, namely, *Ischnura aurora*, as well as four others, *Anax gibbosulus* Rambur, *Diplacodes bipunctata* (Brauer), *Tholymis tillarga* (Fabricius), and *Pantala flavescens* (Fabricius), which were not collected by the Survey. Brauer in 1865 recorded *Anaciaeschna jaspidea* from Tahiti; in 1871 de Selys described *Hemicordulia oceanica* from Tahiti and in 1876 he recorded two species of *Ischnura*, as will be noted below. Recently, D. E. Kimmins³ has described *Ischnura cardinalis* from Raiatea and Borabora.

Anax guttatus Burmeister.

Lake Vaihiria, altitude 1,400 feet, November 1, 1928, 3 adult males, 12 grown nymphs, Adamson.

This is a strong flying species that ranges widely over the shores of the South Pacific, Australia, India and the Indies, and the Chinese coast. It is the giant dragonfly of the collection. Doubtless the nymphs collected at the same time and place as the adults are of the same species. I described the nymph in 1904.⁴

Half a dozen young specimens (11 mm. long) in bad state of preservation seem to show a broad dark band across the abdomen similar to that in the young nymphs of *Anax junius*.

Anaciaeschna jaspidea (Burmeister) (fig. 1).

Tuauru River, September 3, 1928, 1 male, Adamson.

This species was previously recorded from Tahiti by Brauer⁵ as *Aeschna*

¹ Needham, James G., *Coenagrion interruptum*, new species, from the Marquesas Islands and nymph of *Hemicordulia assimilis* Hagen: Pacific Ent. Survey Pub. 1, art. 10, B. P. Bishop Mus., Bull. 98, 1932.

² Cheesman, L. E., A contribution towards the insect fauna of French Oceania, pt. 1: Ent. Soc. London, Trans., vol. 75, pp. 153-154, 1927.

³ Kimmins, D. E., *Ischnura cardinalis*, new species (family Agrionidae), an addition to the fauna of the Society Islands: Entomologist, vol. 62, p. 224, 1929.

⁴ Needham, J. G., New dragonfly nymphs: U. S. Nat. Mus., Proc., vol. 27, p. 695, pl. 40, fig. 2, 1904.

⁵ Brauer, Friedrich, Verh. Zool. Bot. Ges. Wien, vol. 15, p. 907, 1865.

* Pacific Entomological Survey Publication 6, article 4. Issued December 30, 1932.

tahitensis. It has a wide distribution; in the Pacific it has been reported from Fiji and Samoa as well as from Society Islands.

***Tramea limbata* (Desjardins).**

Tramea samoensis Brauer, male; *Tramea transmarina* Brauer, female.

Lake Vaihiria, November 1, 1928, 4 adult males, 1 female, about a dozen grown nymphs probably of the same species, Adamson.

I described the nymph in 1904.⁶

This strong flying species ranges over the whole of the South Pacific and East Indies across continental Africa to Madagascar. It has many synonyms: only those applied to Polynesian specimens are quoted above. For all the others reference may be had to Ris.⁷

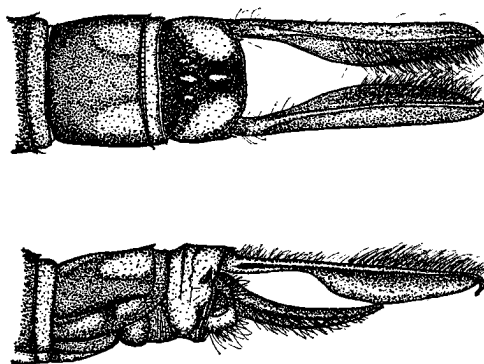


FIGURE 1. Appendages of male abdomen of *Anaciaeschna jaspidea* (Burmeister).

***Diplacodes trivialis* (Fabricius).**

Tuauru River, September 5, 1928, 2 adult females, A. M. Adamson.

This dainty little dragonfly is another wide-ranging species; from Japan and India, through the East Indies, it ranges southward to the Seychelles Islands (though not found as yet on the African continent). Its easternmost record is Viti Levu.

A single female taken, apparently, with the preceding species (same date and locality), corresponds to the one known specimen of *Diplacodes remota* from Solomon Islands described in 1911 by Ris.⁸ More material, especially an adult male, is very desirable.

⁶ Needham, J. G., New dragonfly nymphs: U. S. Nat. Mus., Proc., vol. 27, p. 712, pl. 40, fig. 4, 1904.

⁷ Ris, F., Libellulinen in Cat. Coll. Zool. de Selys, fasc. 16, p. 980, 1913.

⁸ Ris, F., in Cat. Coll. Zool. de Selys, fasc. 12, p. 470, fig. 295, 1910.

Ischnura aurora Brauer.

This species was recorded by de Selys from Tahiti in 1876⁹ together with another one, *I. taitensis*, that does not appear in the present collection nor in Cheesman's paper.

Thirteen adult males and sixteen females and many nymphs of this species were taken in Fautaua Valley, Tahiti, on August 23, September 11, and September 13, 1928. I cannot at present distinguish the nymphs from those of other species of *Ischnura* that have been described.

⁹ Selys-Longchamps, E. de, Synopsis des Agrionines: Acad. Belg., Bull. (2), vol. 41, p. 281, 1876.