

## Reconfirmation of *Gomphus graslinii*, Rambur, 1842, in Navarra and *Onychogomphus costae*, Sélys, 1885, in Aragón in 2006 (Odonata: Gomphidae)

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### Reconfirmación de la presencia de *Gomphus graslinii* en Navarra y de *Onychogomphus costae* en Aragón en 2006 (Odonata: Gomphidae)

**Resumen:** Se informa de observaciones de varios machos de *Gomphus graslinii* en el río Salazar en Lumbier (Navarra) y de *Onychogomphus costae* en el río Alcanadre en Ontiñena (Huesca, Aragón). Esas observaciones confirman citas anteriores realizadas en las cercanías e indican que la distribución de *Gomphus graslinii* en España es poco conocida.

**Palabras clave / Key words:** Odonata, *Gomphus graslinii*, *Onychogomphus costae*, Península Ibérica, Iberian Peninsula, Navarra, Aragón.

### Introduction

The river dwelling dragonflies *Onychogomphus costae* Sélys, 1885 and *Gomphus graslinii* Rambur, 1842 are both rare and distributed in a very localized fashion in Western Europe (Askew 1988; Suhling & Müller 1996; Dijkstra & Lewington 2006). During the summer 2006 we confirmed the occurrence of *O. costae* in Aragón at a site where it had been recorded 13 years ago (Kéry & Schaub 1994). In addition, we found it at another site very close by and detected *G. graslinii* at a new site in Navarra only 6 km from where we had seen it 13 years earlier (Kéry & Schaub 1994). As the distribution of both species, in particular that of the *G. graslinii*, is badly known in Iberia we shortly describe our findings here.

### Observations of *G. graslinii*

On 13 July 2006 we spent about three hours (15:00 – 18:00 h CEST) on the Río Salazar immediately at the upriver edge of the village of Lumbier, Navarra, at about 420 m a.s.l. It was a hot (ca 32°C) and cloudless day with only little wind. At this site the river was about 20m wide with hardly any current. Around the bridge there were gravel banks on a section of ca 50 m. This part of the river was frequently used by villagers for bathing. In contrast, further up, the river was fringed by trees and tall helophytes (possibly *Schoenoplectus lacustris*) at the edge, and it was along a 150m stretch where our observations were made. We watched a total of about 10 *Gomphus* sp. males, one of which was definitely *G. pulchellus*. Out of the remaining nine individuals one was netted, identified using Askew (1988) and Dijkstra & Lewington (2006) and photographed. The pattern of the black thorax lines, the black tibiae and the shape of the male appendages clearly indicated *G. graslinii*. We took almost 50 photographs of about 6 of the 9 *Gomphus* males. They were all identified as *G. graslinii*, as later confirmed by Frank Suhling and Antonio Torralba. Most individuals of *G. graslinii* were not shy at all and they could be freely observed and photographed from as close as 50 cm. Interestingly, they always perched on the bankside vegetation and never on the gravel banks close by.

### Observations of *O. costae*

On 11 July 2006 we spent about three hours (14:00 – 17:00 h CEST) at two neighbouring sections of the Río Alcanadre at Ontiñena, Aragón. The first site was situated immediately at the bridge crossing the river N of the village. Here, on a river area of 30x15 m, we watched at least 10 males of *Onychogomphus costae*, with a maximum of 5 of them being in view simultaneously. They mostly perched on the plants and twigs on the waterfront as well as on rocks in the water. Several individuals could be approached at will and their photographs be taken. This was the same site where we had already watched the species in 1993 (Kéry & Schaub 1994). The second site was about 1km further upriver the Alcanadre, where we observed at least three males along the river over ca 100 m around a weir.

### Discussion

Our observation of *G. graslinii* adds evidence for the belief that this species may be much more widespread in Spain than what is currently known. We had earlier made a sighting of a single male at Liédena, Navarra, about 6 km from the Lumbier site (Kéry & Schaub 1994). Judging from the distribution map for *G. graslinii* in Suhling & Müller (1996) and Dijkstra & Lewington (2006), Liédena and Lumbier appear to be the only currently known occurrences of *G. graslinii* in NE Spain, although Suhling & Müller (1996) hypothesize that large parts of Iberia may be occupied. Observations such as ours are therefore important to gain a better view of the species' distribution in what may be an important part of the European range of this threatened species. Similarly, *G. graslinii* was recently discovered at a new site in the Zamora province (Weihrauch & Weihrauch 2006). Dragonfly observers in Spain should therefore be on the lookout for this important species.

The occurrence of *O. costae* in the Ebro valley is well known (Grand & Boudot 1994; Kéry & Schaub 1994; Jödicke 1996; Suhling & Müller 1996). Records from Aragón are compiled in Torralba Burrial & Ocharan (2005). Still, *O. costae* is very rare, and the rivers where it occurs, particularly in the Ebro valley, may be especially threatened by taking water for irrigation or owing to water pollution. A close surveillance of the sites where it is known to occur would therefore be desirable as well as further surveys to better work out its distribution.

### Acknowledgements

Frank Suhling and Antonio Torralba confirmed our identification of *G. graslinii* from our photographs. Antonio Torralba, Florian Weihrauch and Hansruedi Wildermuth revised an earlier version of this paper and helped in various ways. Our sincere thanks go to them all.

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