

Miscellaneous dragonfly (Odonata) records from Extremadura, including the first record of *Anax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839)

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Summary: Over 140 unpublished records for 25 odonate species are given for Extremadura. These include the first for the region of *Anax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839) and a new site for the regionally and internationally protected *Coenagrion mercuriale* (Charpentier, 1840).

Key words: Odonata, faunistics, Iberian Peninsula, Extremadura.

Datos faunísticos de los odonatos (Odonata) de Extremadura, con la primera de *Anax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839) en la región.

Resumen: Se detallan más de 140 nuevas citas de 25 especies de odonatos para Extremadura. Incluyen la primera cita de *Anax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839) y una nueva localidad para *Coenagrion mercuriale* (Charpentier, 1840), especie protegida tanto a nivel regional como internacional.

Palabras clave: Odonata, faunística, Península Ibérica, Extremadura.

Introduction & Methods

During multiple visits to Extremadura, mainly whilst working as a guide leading wildlife groups (primarily for birdwatching), I have collected information on dragonfly sightings in a non-systematic way. The distribution of sightings is consequently very uneven, being biased to the periods between mid-March and mid-May, and again towards the end of September – beginning of October, and are concentrated in central-East Cáceres, an area with relatively little information to date (Pérez-Bote *et al.*, 2006). Over 140 records of at least 25 species have been made (49% of the regional total), including *Anax ephippiger* (Burmeister, 1839), apparently new for the region. Fortunately, although records of this type are difficult to collate and rarely published, given the excellent baseline provided by the provisional atlas (Pérez-Bote *et al.*, 2006), especially when contrasted with the maps in Dijkstra & Lewington (2006), these can now be put into perspective.

All positively identified and detailed records are presented for completeness. All records were made by the author, except where stated for a few other notable records from other sources. Observations were made in the field of live individuals, usually with binoculars and / or occasionally with telescopes. Photographs were taken of a number of insects, usually for later consultation for more difficult species, and some of these are presented here; records with photographic support are marked with an asterisk. The locations are mainly the closest named sites using SIGPAC (<http://sigpac.mapa.es/feqa/visor/>) online, and UTM coordinates for the 100m x 100m quadrat were also taken from this source (Table I).

Results

Calopteryx haemorrhoidalis (Vander Linden, 1825)

2. 10-IV-2003: 3+♂♂, 3♀♀; 14-V-2005: 3+♂♂*.

Lestes barbarus (Fabricius, 1798)

7. 27-V-2006: 1♀*.

Lestes viridis (Vander Linden, 1825)

19. 28-IX-2005: 1. 29. 02-X-2002: pair in tandem; 28-IX-2006: 3.

Sympecma fusca (Vander Linden, 1820)

29. 07-IV-2005: 2-3*.

Ischnura graellsii (Rambur, 1842)

1. 01-IV-2001: 'a few'. 5. 27-IX-2004: 'a few'; 29-IX-2002: 2. 8. 31-III-2001: 'a few'; 3-X-2001: 'a few'; 30-III-2002: 5+; 08-III-2003: 1; 15-IV-2003: 15+; 27-IX-2003: 'several'; 03-IV-2004: 'lots'; 09-IV-2004: 'several'; 21-IV-2004: 'lots'; 25-III-2005: 1 type-C immature ♀*; 08-IV-2005: 'several'; 20-IV-2005: 2; 29-IX-2006: 1; 17-III-2007: 'abundant'. 11. 17-IV-2004: 'a few'. 15. 26-IX-2005: 1 ♀. 21. 27-IX-2004: 'a few'; 26-IX-2006: 1. 23. 18-IV-2005: 1. 25. 9-IV-2002: 'a few'. 26. 10-IV-2002: 2; 7-IV-2004: 1. 29. 3♂♂ 02-X-2002; 01-IV-2003: 2; 07-IV-2005: 1♂*; 28-IX-2006: 2-3.

Coenagrion mercuriale (Charpentier, 1840)

2. 10-IV-2003: 3; 20-IV-2005: 1♂*; 14-V-2005: pair copulating*.

Erythromma lindenii (Selys, 1840)

23. 07-IV-2006: 1♀*.

Pyrrhosoma nymphula (Sulzer, 1776)

2. 10-IV-2003: 5+; 15-IV-2006: 2+; 14-V-2005: pair copulating + 3 singles*.

Aeshna mixta Latreille, 1805

4. 16-XI-2004: 1. 10. 27-IX-2004: 1; 01-X-2004: 'lots'. 14. 29-IX-2004: 'plenty'. 15. 29-IX-2002: 'a few'; 29-IX-2004: 'plenty'. 16. 29-IX-2003: 'several'. 26. 29-IX-2004: 'plenty'.

Aeshna cyanea (Müller, 1764)

5. 15-X-2002: 1♂. 15. 18-X-2002: 1; 28-IX-2004: 1♀*: on entering one of the buildings a rustling sound alerted me to the presence of the individual in the photograph (Fig. 1), which was found hanging on a wall. It was firmly trapped by the forelegs in a spider's web. The spider in question was seen on the side of the insect's thorax, apparently biting it. However, immediately after the photographs were taken the spider retreated back into its tunnel web when the dragonfly flapped vigorously, and given its public position in the hotel and on the requests of some clients, the dragonfly was freed (with some difficulty) from the web and released outside where it flew off strongly, 30-IX-2005: 1♀. 29. 2-X-2002: 3.

Anax imperator Leach, 1815

5. 30-IX-2001: 1♀ egg-laying. 12. 27-IV-2002: 2. 26. 26-IV-2002: 1; 29-IX-2004: 1. 27. 25-IX-2006: 'several'. 29. 03-X-2001: 3; 02-X-2002: 1♂; 28-IX-2006: 1♀.

Anax parthenope (Selys, 1839)

8. 03-IV-2004: 1; 26-IX-2004: 4-5; 01-X-2004: 1-2; 08-IV-2005: 'a few'; 25-IX-2005: 1; 29-IX-2006: 1; 17-II-2007: 'several'. 9. 30-IX-2005: pair in tandem. 26. 04-IV-2006: 2. 27. 25-IX-2006: 'several'. 29. 28-IX-2006: 'several'.

Anax ephippiger (Burmeister, 1839)

12 and 28. 24-III-2005: 1♂ and 12. 07-IV-2005: 1♂. While eating a picnic lunch beside the Río Tozo on the earlier date, I noticed the arrival of a large dragonfly which began patrolling and investigating a short stretch of river just below us. The early date was surprising and the overall pale brown body with bright blue spot at the base of the abdomen immediately made me suspect that it was this species and not *A. parthenope*. I had found and photographed a moribund male *A. ephippiger* in E Rumania on 09-V-2004 and this insect looked identical from what I could remember. Views over the next 10-15 minutes, down to 2 m, but always in flight (the insect tried to land unsuccessfully in tall emergent reed *Typha* sp. stems on a couple of occasions), confirmed that the blue patch was rather short along the abdomen and also sharply cut off along its posterior and lower borders and the insect had rich brown (upper) eyes, as viewed from slightly above. The insect disappeared downstream, but we later intermittently saw it patrolling out over the nearby reservoir during the next hour or so (where there may have also been a second individual present). Returning to the site on 7-IV with another group I located a male of the species patrolling out over the reservoir, which I presume to be the same insect.

The river here varies from 50 cm – c. 4 m wide, with slower deeper sections alternating with short rapids over rockier outcrops, usually drying to a trickle in autumn. The banks vary from shallowly sloping to (typically) quite steep with almost vertical banks slightly away from the water's edge, and sometimes with a narrow band of dense fringing vegetation of varying composition. The reservoir is open sided, quite shallow and despite beds of aquatic *Ranunculus* sp. and submerged grasses forming, has no emergent vegetation. Both lie in extensive holm oak 'dehesa'.

Gomphus pulchellus Selys, 1840

26. 07-IV-2004: 1*. 30. 08-IV-2004: 1*.

Paragomphus genei (Selys, 1841)

A female photographed at the Embalse de Arrocampo 02-X-2005 (Speybroeck, 2005)

Cordulegaster boltonii (Donovan, 1807)

2. 15-V-2002: 3.

Libellula depressa Linnaeus, 1758

1. 24-IV-2002: 1♀. 17. 08-IV-2003: 1♀.

Orthetrum coerulescens (Fabricius, 1798)

2. 14-V-2005: pair copulating*.

Orthetrum brunneum (Fonscolombe, 1837)

5. 01-X-2005: 2. 21. 27-IX-2004: 1♂.

Orthetrum chrysostigma (Burmeister, 1839)

5. 29-IX-2002: 1♂. 21. 27-IX-2004: 1♂ hovering over an ovipositing ♀. 26. 29-IX-2004: 'several'. 27. 28-IX-2006: 1♂. 29. 28-IX-2006: 'several' ♂♂.

Orthetrum trinacria (Selys, 1841)

8: 03-X-2001: 1♂; 12-X-2002: 1♀; 05-IV-2003: 1♀; 27-IX-2003: 6+; 30-IX-2003: 'lots'; 26-IX-2004: 3; 01-X-2004: 1♂+1♀; 20-IV-2005: 1♂; 30-IX-2005: 1♀; 29-IX-2006: 'lots'. 29. 28-IX-2006: 1♂.

Sympetrum fonscolombii (Selys, 1840)

5. 13-V-2002: 1♂; 15-X-2002: 1♀. 6. 01-X-2003: 'plenty'; 26-IX-2005: 'several'. 8. 03-X-2001: 1♂. 10. 27-V-2002: 5+; 26-IX-2005: 'several'. 12. 21-IV-2004: 3. 13. 27-IX-2006: 15+. 14. 02-X-2003: 'lots'. 18. 29-IX-2003: 1♂. 21. 01-X-2003: 'plenty'; 26-IX-2005: 'several'; 26-IX-2006: 'hundreds'. 22. 29-IX-2002: 'abundant'. 27. 28-IX-2006: 'several'. 29. 27-IV-2002: 1♂, 28-IX-2006: 'several'.

Sympetrum striolatum (Charpentier, 1840)

9. 30-IX-2005: 1♀. 31. 18-XI-2004*.

Fig. 1. *Aeshna cyanea* trapped in a spider's web. ▶



Crocothemis erythraea (Brullé, 1832)

5. 30-IX-2001: 'several' ♂♂; 27-IX-2004: 'lots'; 01-X-2005: 'plenty'. 6. 01-X-2003: 1♀. 10. 27-IX-2004: 'lots'. 21. 27-IX-2004: 'lots'. 24. 27-IX-2005: 1♂+1♀. 26. 29-IX-2004: 1♀. 27. 25-IX-2006: 'a few'.

Trithemis annulata (Palisot de Beauvois, 1807)

3. 05-IV-2006: 1♀*. 20. 29-IX-2003: 2+♂♂ + 1♀*. 29. 28-IX-2006: 3♂♂*.

Brachythemis leucosticta (Burmeister, 1839)

8. 15-V-2002: 5+; 29-V-2002: 2♂♂; 27-IX-2003: 1♂; 01-X-2004: 1♂.

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Table I. List of sites with UTM coordinates for the 100m x 100m sighting quadrat.

C = Cáceres, B = Badajoz. Pro: Province.

Nº	Pro.	Site	HUSO	X-UTM	Y-UTM
1	C	Arroyo de la Gironda, Finca La Gironda (Trujillo)	30	2629	43777
2	C	Arroyo de la Sierra, Puente de Gorrilla (Valdecañas de Tajo)	30	2761	44055
3	C	Bar Portugal (Almaraz)	30	2711	44107
4	C	Cabañas del Castillo	30	2843	43806
5	B	Cortijo de San Isidro aqueduct, Vegas Altas (Navalvillar de Pela)	30	2772	43333
6	C	Dehesa de Santa María (Alcollarín)	30	2690	43420
7	C	'El Poyo' (Gata)	29	7057	44564
8	C	Embalse de Arrocampo (Saucedilla)	30	2711	44133
9	C	Embalse de Cerro Alto (Saucedilla)	30	2686	44150
10	C	Embalse de Sierra Brava (Zorita)	30	2709	43414
11	B	Embalse del Sillio (Higuera la Real)	29	7009	42192
12	C	Embalse del Tozo (Torrecillas de la Tiesa)	30	2609	43851
13	C	Estanque de San Lázaro (Trujillo)	30	2526	43711
14	C	Finca La Pulgosa (Cáceres)	29	7417	43732
15	C	Finca Santa Marta (Herguijuela)	30	2614	43642
16	C	Fuente del Francés, P.N. Monfragüe (Torrejón el Rubio)	29	7524	44130
17	C	'La Nava' (Torrejón el Rubio)	30	2468	43991
18	C	P.N. Monfragüe castle (Torrejón el Rubio)	29	7538	44132
19	C	Pinewood in P.N. Monfragüe (Toril)	30	2447	44140
20	C	Portilla del Tiétar, P.N. Monfragüe (Toril)	30	2468	44162
21	B	Rice fields Finca Casas de Hito (Navalvillar de Pela)	30	2756	43395
22	B	Rice fields Vegas Altas (Navalvillar de Pela)	30	2796	43343
23	C	Río Almonte, Molino del Puente (Aldeacentenera)	30	2784	43819
24	C	Río Almonte, Peña del Rayo (Cabañas del Castillo)	30	2836	43820
25	B	Río Gargáligas, Finca Los Galápagos (Acedera)	30	2782	43310
26	C	Río Magasca (Santa Marta de Magasca / Trujillo)	29	7498	43798
27	C	Río Tamuja (Santa Marta de Magasca / Cáceres)	29	7481	43765
28	C	Río Tozo bridge (Torrecillas de la Tiesa)	30	2611	43841
29	C	Río Tozo, 'Suerte de los Mozos' (Torrecillas de la Tiesa)	30	2610	43846
30	C	Río Tozo 2 (Torrecillas de la Tiesa)	30	2611	43850
31	C	Trujillo Castle (Trujillo)	30	2520	43721