

Dr. Fred Sibley Field Notes on Damselflies and Dragonflies.

Maria, Eric, Jean©Michel:

Below is list of things I collected at Domitila, from Aug. 21-17, 2003, with comments on habitat, abundance and identification. Hope this is useful. The measurement given after species name is approximate total length.

DAMSELFLIES

***Calopterygidae

Hetaerina caja (40-45mm) - large, bulky damselflies with red at base of wings

- common along both streams. The dominant species of this genus.

Hetaerina occisa (40-45mm) - similar looking to *caja*

-only one found - spring area of Rio Dorado

Hetaerina titia (40-45mm) - similar but color at base of rear wing very dark in contrast to red at base of forewing.

-Fairly common but only in Rio Pintal

***Pseudostigmatidae

Mecistogaster ornata (95mm) - large "helicopter" damselfly - yellow wing tips.

-Two seen.

***Platystictidae

Palaemnema nathalia (41mm) - a very bluish, long abdomened damselfly

-2 found in shaded areas next to springs - members of family usually hide in root tangles along forest streams.

***Protonuridae

Neoneura amelia (32mm) - small damselfly with bright red head and thorax, black abdomen.

-common along Rio Dorado, two at lake and a few on Rio Pintal

Neoneura esthera (31mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] similar to above but most of abdomen red.

-One found near spring area in Rio Dorado

Protoneura amatoria (35mm)- very long thin red abdomen

-Uncommon in both streams - often areas with overhanging vegetation.

Protoneura cara (35mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] similar to above, abdomen mostly dark, red/orange patterning on thorax.

-Several pairs in spring area of Rio Dorado.

***Coenagrionidae

Acanthagrion trilobatum (30mm) - standard small blue damselfly
-One in spring area of Rio Dorado

Argia cupraurea (33mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] - striking red eyes, coppery thorax and blue abdomens make this easy to identify.
-Widespread and common in both streams.

Argia pulla (30-32mm) - a very dark looking small damselfly.
The dominant and most abundant damselfly in the streams and even some along lake area. Eric: This was the one we caught a number of at one spot on the hill behind hotel.

Argia tezpi (40mm) - a large and fairly heavy *Argia* with dark flavescens wings - might even confuse it with some female *Hetaerina*.
-Only found one female on hill behind hotel. Eric: this was one you caught in late afternoon.

Argia translata (35mm) - slightly longer abdomen than *A. pulla* but similarly dark.
-Common but less so than *A. pulla*. The two were together on both streams.

Enallagma novaehispaniae (30mm) - blue damselfly, segments 8 & 9 blue
-Uncommon on Rio Pintal at lake and on Rio Dorado near springs.

Ischnura ramburii (27mm) - a very small damselfly - male with green thorax and blue 8 & 9 segments, female same or dull gray or (young) dark reddish.
-Common all along lake edge.

Telebasis digiticollis (31mm) - pale red color as for all members of genus - need to look at terminal appendages to separate.
-Uncommon in short flooded grass near lake and quite common in swampy ponds with tall ferns at Laguna Blanca.

Telebasis griffinii (31mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] - as above
-Uncommon in areas of water lettuce along edge of lake.

DRAGONFLIES

***Aeshnidae

Eric: Darners we saw along lake seemed to include both *Anax* and *Aeshna* - there were more common the second time I visited but even less catchable - staying high and not following any repeatable foraging patterns.

Gynacantha mexicana (70-75mm) - Large dull, unpatterned darner with dark stripe at ventro/posterior portion of thorax.
-Only one caught © in road by hotel.

Gynacantha nervosa (70-75mm) - as above but no dark stripe
-Common in dawn and evening flights. Eric caught most of them.

Triacanthagyna caribbea (55-60mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] a smaller version of *Gynacantha* but very strikingly green on thorax. Legs dark.
-Only two caught - one flushed along trail on hill behind hotel and one flushed from overhanging vegetation along Rio Dorado. Not caught in evening flight but would have been part of this.

Triacanthagyna septima (55-60mm) - as above but legs pale.
-The more abundant species of the genus. Eric caught one over Rio Pital in morning flight, two were caught in fern forests at Laguna Blanca and one flew into our hotel room at Managua Airport.

***Gomphidae

Aphylla obscura (60mm) - A large stream species. Terminal segments of abdomen greatly expanded and large yellow spot on 7th segment.
-Several seen along the streams and two caught.

Phyllocycla breviphylla (55-60mm) - A lake species, slightly smaller than previous and with nice green patterning on thorax, expansion of terminal segments less obvious and no yellow spot.
-A number caught back from lake edge along trail and several teneral individuals on trail over hill behind hotel.

Progomphus clendoni (45-47mm) - Another lake species. Small yellow spot on 7th segment, slight expansion of terminal segments. Smaller than previous two.
-Only one caught © by Eric on trail just back from lake shore. Nick Donnelly say they were probably common flying over lake just offshore from vegetation. An area we couldn't get to.

***Libellulidae

Brachymesia herbida (45mm) - A conspicuous brownish open country species with flavescens wings (a lot of variation in amount of coloring)
-Common from hotel to lake - usually perching very high in dead bushes.

Cannaphila insularis (38mm) - a non-descript pond species.
-One caught - Laguna Blanca in forest pools.

Dythemis sterilis (37mm) - reddish eyes, heavily patterned thorax.
-Fairly common on conspicuous perches over the two streams.

Erythemis plebeja (38-50mm) - Black species with black spot at base of abdomen. Abdomen much narrower than thorax.
-A fairly common open country species from hotel to lake.

Erythemis vesiculosa (60mm) - the common green dragonfly of open country situations.
-Often flying at knee level and very close to people. Also found along streams.

Erythrodiplax fervida (33mm) - small dragonfly with yellow spot on 7 and bright reddish patch on base of wings.
-A few found at Laguna Blanca in more open pools.

Erythrodiplax funerea (47mm) - Some with basal half of wing black and others (yg and some females) with just dark spot at base of hind wing. Amount of wing coloring very variable but always restricted to basal 1/2 of wing.
-Abundant over whole area, lake, open county, and any sunny openings along trails.

Erythrodiplax umbrata - saw just one of this species which has black wing band on outer half of wing rather than basal half.

Miathyria marcella (40 mm) - a small version of *Tramea* but more colorful with purplish thorax and yellowish abdomen. Flavescent wings and narrow basal wing patch.

Micrathyria aequalis (30mm) - a small blue dragonfly with yellow spot on 7th.
-Uncommon in sparse reed beds back from lake edge.

Micrathyria didyma (35mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] similar to above but slightly larger and more patterning on abdomen.
-Common at Laguna Blanca but also one on hill behind hotel.

Orthemis discolor (50mm) - Large reddish dragonfly.
-Only one found at muddy pool near lake.

Orthemis ferruginea (50mm) - similar to above but dull red or purple versus bright red.
-Abundant in all open areas. Usually perches below 3-4 feet on grass or scrubs. Frequent at muddy temporary pools. But also found along open areas of Rio Pintal and in any sunny clearing along trail.

Pantala flavescens (45mm) - a stocky yellow dragonfly
-The most abundant odonates. Always open country and more abundant as one approached lake. Probably saw several thousand in air near lake.

Perithemis mooma (23mm) - a small amber-winged (male) species. Wing pattern of females variable but always with dark markings of some

sort. Wing of female may be amber or clear, but nothing else this small.

-Fairly common in flooded vegetation along lake edge. Also similar areas at Laguna Blanca.

Tauriphila australis (45mm) - Fairly dark open country species that might be confused with *Brachymesia*.

-Uncommon in open arid scrub. Usually perching at top of dead bushes as for *Brachymesia*.

Tholymis citrina (50mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] A large dull evening flying species with conspicuous large dot in middle of back wing.

-Fairly common in morning and evening flights although most specimens were caught when flushed from edge of trails during day.

Tramea calverti (50mm) - Large, long-winged open country species with narrow dark patch at base of wings.

-Abundant in open country. Usually patrolling rather than perched.

Tramea onusta (50mm) - [NEW for NICARAGUA] similar to above but basal patch much larger.

-Only one caught © in open country near lake.