

# Dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata) of Chhattisgarh, India

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**ABSTRACT:** The present study on the Odonata (Insecta) of Chhattisgarh, India, documents eighty-five species including thirteen new records to the state. Three species — *Cyclogomphus heterostylus* Selys, 1854, *Macrogomphus seductus* Fraser, 1926 (Gomphidae) and *Zygonyx iris iris* Selys, 1869 (Libellulidae) — are recorded for the first time from central India. The paper discusses the geographical and habitat-wise distribution of Odonata of Chhattisgarh.

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## INTRODUCTION

The order Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies), comprising three suborders Anisoptera, Anisozygoptera and Zygoptera are one of ancient group of Insects. Within India, 463 species belonging to 140 genera have been recorded representing 8% of the world known species (Subramanian 2009). The larvae and adults are predatory and very important biocontrol agents for insect pests (Khaliq 2002). Moreover, studies across the world have shown that they are good indicators of ecosystem health and ideal surrogate taxa for identifying freshwater biodiversity hotspots for conservation (Hart *et al.* 2014).

Odonata diversity is quite known from the Central India; however the information on protected areas and districts of Chhattisgarh was scanty. This survey was carried out from 2011–2013 in different districts and protected areas in different seasons to assess the Odonata diversity of this state. Previous studies on Odonate fauna of this state were partly done along with few protected areas and districts of Madhya Pradesh from which Chhattisgarh was carved out in 2000. Mitra (1995) recorded 22 species of Odonata from Indravati Tiger Reserve, Bastar. Prasad (1996) reported 66 species of Odonates from Bastar district. Mishra (2007) documented 70 species from Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh which was updated to 106 species recently (Tiple and Chandra, 2013). This present paper deals with the Odonata specimens collected, observed and studied during survey of few Districts and Protected areas of Chhattisgarh.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The present study was carried out in connection with the projects entitled “Faunal Diversity of Protected Areas of Chhattisgarh” and “District-Wise Faunal Diversity of Chhattisgarh” funded by Chhattisgarh, CAMPA, Govt. of India. The survey was done through extensive collection of Odonata specimens, direct observation and photographic record in 8 districts and 6 protected areas (Table 1) of Chhattisgarh from June, 2011 to May, 2013 (Figure 1).

Survey were conducted seasonally mainly in pre-monsoon (January to May) and monsoon (June to September). Specimens were collected using butterfly net and by handpicking. Collected specimens were killed by gently pressing the thorax and kept dry in insect envelope and processed for preservation and identification. The collected specimens were examined under Leica EZ4 HD Binocular Microscope and Leica Stereo Zoom Microscope (Leica M205A). Smaller damselfly specimens were examined and kept in 70% ethanol after identification. Species were identified following keys of Fraser (1933, 1934, 1936) and Mitra (2002). Identified specimens were deposited in National Zoological Collections of Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

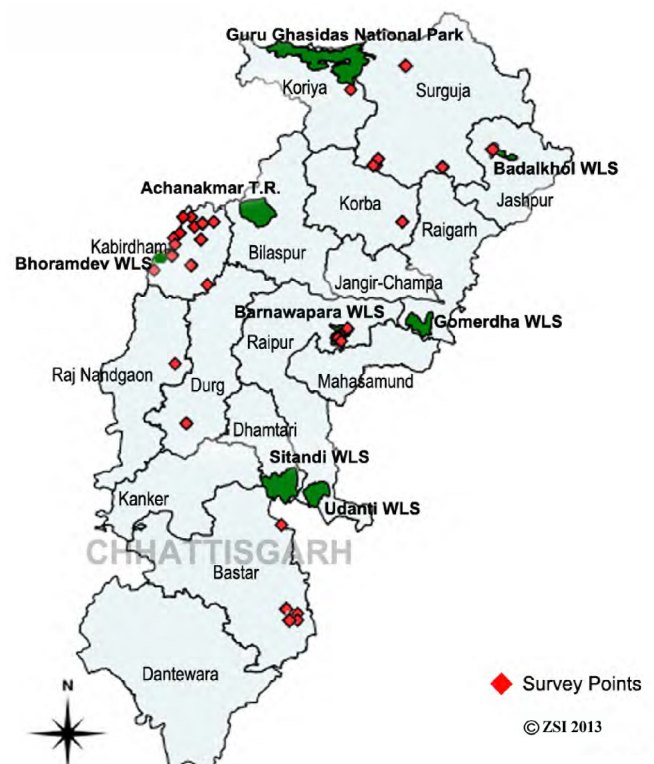


FIGURE 1. Map of Chhattisgarh showing the study area.

**TABLE 1.** Study Area with Forest Cover, Average annual Temperature and Annual Rainfall (Nag, 2007).

STUDY AREA		DISTRICT FOREST COVER (km <sup>2</sup> )	ANNUAL RAINFALL (mm)	AVERAGE ANNUAL TEMPERATURE (°C)	DAILY RAINFALL (mm)	
DISTRICTS	PROTECTED AREAS				MAX. (JULY TO SEPT)	MIN. (JAN TO MAR)
Bastar	—	7112.3	1398.2	>27	350	6 to 10
Bilaspur	AWLS	2987.5	1130.3	25-27	400	12
Durg	—	863.2	1757.2	25-27	400	10
Jashpur	BDWLS	2752.3	1544.4	23-25	>400	20
Kabirdham	BHWLS	1852.2	935	25-27	400	12
Korba	—	4187.3	2091	23-25	>400	12
Koriya	GGNP	3529.3	1376.7	23-25	>400	>18
Raipur	BRWLS	4412.7	977.5	25-27	400	12
Surguja	TPWLS	8654.9	1531.6	23-25	>400	>18

Abbreviation used are: AWLS, Achanakmar Wildlife Sanctuary; BDWLS, Badakhhol Wildlife Sanctuary; BHWLS, Boramdev Wildlife Sanctuary; BRWLS, Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary; GGNP, Guru Ghasidas National Park; TPWLS, Tamor Pingla Wildlife Sanctuary.

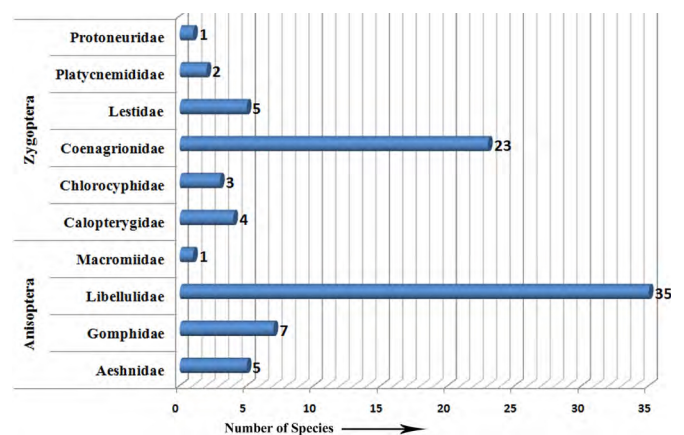
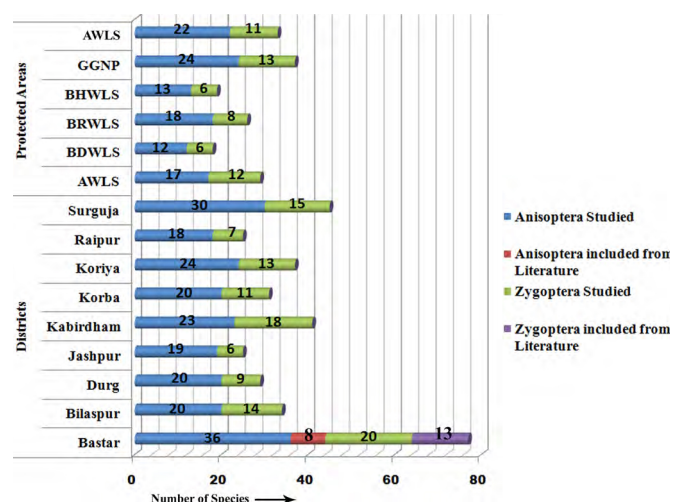
## RESULTS

The present study conducted in 8 districts and 6 protected areas of Chhattisgarh, revealed the identification of 68 Odonata species belonging to 44 genera and 10 families, among which 13 species representing 12 genera are newly recorded from the state (Table 3) including 3 species, viz., *Cyclogomphus heterostylus* Selys, 1854, *Macrogomphus seductus* Fraser, 1926 (Gomphidae) and *Zygonyx iris iris* Selys, 1869 (Libellulidae) new records to the Central India. This study resulted in listing the Odonata fauna of this state represented by 85 species belonging to 49 genera and 10 families (Table 2) which are more than 18% of the Indian fauna. Among the recorded species family Libellulidae is most dominant in number having 35 individuals and least are the Macromiidae and Protoneuridae with only one species each (Figure 2). Among the districts surveyed Bastar hosts the maximum number of species studied, followed by Surguja and Kabirdham and least number of species were studied from Jashpur and Raipur (Figure 3).

## DISCUSSION

Chhattisgarh is the most forested state of India having 44% land under forest cover. There are four major forest types, namely Tropical Moist Deciduous, Tropical Dry Deciduous, Tropical Thorn and Subtropical Broadleaf Hill Forests. Forests are largely distributed in the north and in the southern parts of the State. Teak and Sal are the two most important forest formations of the State (Nag 2007). During monsoon the odonates were abundant in flooded crop-fields, grasslands and swamps, but as most part of the state endures a very hot summer, crop-fields and number of wetlands dry up except for a few large ponds and streams. Libellulidae and Coenagrionidae were most abundant families to be found in almost every habitat. Good populations of *Lestes umbrinus* Selys, 1891 and *Lestes viridulus* Rambur, 1842 (both family Lestidae) were seen in grasslands beside water bodies; *Copera vittata* Selys, 1863 and *Copera marginipes* (Rambur, 1842) (both family Platycnemididae) were mainly found near shaded forest streams. In the dry summer, few aeshnids, namely *Anax immaculifrons* Rambur, 1842 and *Gynacantha byadera*

Selys, 1891, and calopterygids, namely *Vestalis apicalis* Selys, 1873 and *Vestalis gracilis* (Rambur, 1842), were seen to concentrate near the small waterholes and small rocky streams inside forests. Few individuals of family Chlorocyphidae, namely *Rhinocypha bisignata* Hagen in Selys, 1853 and *Libellago lineata* (Burmeister, 1839), were also found near rocky streams. The list of species reported from different habitats such as grassland and paddy fields near water bodies (I), Ponds and swamps of villages (II), Deep forests (III), Waterholes inside forest (IV), rocky and shaded forest streams (V) and rocky riverbeds (VI) are included in the Table 2. Further study of both the larval and adult stages in the remote areas in the forests and rocky streams may enrich the species list.

**FIGURE 2.** Chart showing number of Odonata species from different families identified during the study.**FIGURE 3.** Chart showing number of species recorded from different districts and protected areas of Chhattisgarh.

**TABLE 2.** List of Odonata recorded from Chhattisgarh (+ indicates species reported herein; \* indicates species recorded from literature and the citations beside the species indicate the respective literatures.).

TAXON	DISTRICTS									PROTECTED AREAS					HABITAT TYPE	
	BASTAR	BILASPUR	DURG	JASHPUR	KABIRDHAM	KOREA	KORIYA	RAIPUR	SURGUJA	AWLS	BDWLS	BRWLSW	BHWLS	GGNP		TPWLS
<b>Order Odonata</b>																
<b>Suborder Anisoptera</b>																
<b>Family Aeshnidae</b>																
<i>Anaciaeschna jaspidea</i> (Burmeister, 1839)									+						I	
<i>Anax guttatus</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+				+	+	II
<i>Anax immaculifrons</i> Rambur, 1842	+				+			+	+		+					IV
<i>Gynacantha bayadera</i> Selys, 1891	+				+	+										IV
<i>Hemianax ephippiger</i> (Burmeister, 1839)									+							I
<b>Family Gomphidae</b>																
<i>Cyclogomphus heterostylus</i> Selys, 1854	+															I
<i>Cyclogomphus ypsilon</i> Selys, 1854	+								+							I
<i>Ictinogomphus rapax</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	II
<i>Macrogomphus seductus</i> Fraser, 1926	+															III
<i>Microgomphus torquatus</i> (Selys, 1854)	+															III
<i>Paragomphus lineatus</i> (Selys, 1850)	+			+	+		+		+					+	+	I
<b>Family Libellulidae</b>																
<i>Acisoma panorpoides</i> Rambur, 1842	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	I
<i>Brachydiplax sobrina</i> (Rambur, 1842)*	+	Prasad, 1996														
<i>Brachythemis contaminata</i> (Fabricius, 1793)	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Bradinopyga geminata</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+								+						+	VI
<i>Camacina gigantea</i> (Brauer, 1867)	+					+			+							III
<i>Cratilla lineata</i> Foerster, 1903	+	+	+		+				+							I, II
<i>Crocothemis servilia</i> (Drury, 1770)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Diplacodes lefebvrei</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+							+					+			II
<i>Diplacodes nebulosa</i> (Fabricius, 1793)	+		+													I
<i>Diplacodes trivialis</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Indothemis limbata</i> (Selys, 1891)*	+	Mitra, 1995; Prasad, 1996														
<i>Lathrecista asiatica</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	+		+	+				+			+					III
<i>Neurothemis fulvia</i> (Drury, 1773)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	III
<i>Neurothemis intermedia</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+		+	+			+		+					+	+	V
<i>Neurothemis tullia</i> (Drury, 1773)	+			+			+							+		I, II
<i>Orthetrum glaucum</i> (Brauer, 1865)	+	+			+		+		+					+	+	III, V
<i>Orthetrum luzonicum</i> (Brauer, 1868)	+	+		+	+	+	+		+					+	+	I, V
<i>Orthetrum pruinosum</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II, V
<i>Orthetrum sabina</i> (Drury, 1770)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	
<i>Orthetrum taeniolatum</i> (Schneider, 1845)	+		+		+	+	+		+					+	+	VI
<i>Palpopleura sexmaculata</i> (Fabricius, 1787)	+						+							+		II
<i>Pantala flavescens</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Potamarcha congener</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+				+				+							I, II
<i>Rhyothemis variegata</i> (Linnaeus, 1763)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Tholymis tillarga</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II, V
<i>Tramea basilaris</i> (Palisot de Beauvois, 1805)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+		II
<i>Tramia limbata</i> (Desjardins, 1832)								+			+					II
<i>Tramea virginia</i> (Rambur, 1842)*	+	Prasad, 1996														
<i>Trithemis aurora</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Trithemis festiva</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	V, VI
<i>Trithemis kirbyi</i> Selys, 1891*	+	Prasad, 1996														
<i>Trithemis pallidinervis</i> (Kirby, 1889)	+	+				+		+	+	+	+					I, II
<i>Urothemis signata</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+	+			+			+							I
<i>Zygonyx iris iris</i> Selys, 1869				+							+					I, III
<i>Zygomma petiolatum</i> Rambur, 1842	+						+		+						+	I, II
<b>Family Macromiidae</b>																
<i>Macromia cingulata</i> Rambur, 1842	+							+						+	+	V
<b>Suborder Zygoptera</b>																
<b>Family Calopterygidae</b>																
<i>Neurobasis chinensis</i> (Linnaeus, 1758)				+							+					IV
<i>Vestalaria smaragdina</i> (Selys, 1879)*	+								Mitra, 1995; Prasad, 1996							
<i>Vestalis apicalis</i> Selys, 1873		+			+		+	+	+	+	+		+	+		IV
<i>Vestalis gracilis</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+			+			+			+		+			IV

**TABLE 2.** List of Odonata recorded from Chhattisgarh (\* indicates species reported herein; \* indicates species recorded from literature).

TAXON	DISTRICTS									PROTECTED AREAS					HABITAT TYPE
	BASTAR	BILASPUR	DURG	JASHPUR	KABIRDHAM	KORBA	KORIYA	RAIPUR	SURGUJA	AWLS	BDWLS	BRWLSW	BHWLS	GGNP	
<b>Family Chlorocyphidae</b>															
<i>Rhinocypha bisignata</i> Hagen in Selys, 1853									+					+	V
<i>Rhinocypha trifasciata</i> (Selys, 1853)*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Libellago lineata</i> (Burmeister, 1839)	+			+						+					IV
<b>Family Coenagrionidae</b>															
<i>Aciagrion hisopa</i> (Selys, 1876)*	+	Mitra, 1995; Prasad, 1996													
<i>Aciagrion occidentale</i> Laidlaw, 1919*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Aciagrion pallidum</i> Selys, 1891*	+	Mitra, 1995; Prasad, 1996													
<i>Agriocnemis dabreui</i> Fraser, 1919*	+	Mitra, 1995; Prasad, 1996													
<i>Agriocnemis lacteola</i> Selys, 1877	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Agriocnemis pieris</i> Laidlaw, 1919*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Agriocnemis pygmaea</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Agriocnemis splendidissima</i> Laidlaw, 1919	+	+					+	+	+			+			I, II
<i>Ceragrion coromandelianum</i> (Fabricius, 1798)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Ceragrion olivaceum</i> Laidlaw, 1914*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Ceragrion rubiae</i> Laidlaw, 1916				+					+	+					I, II, IV
<i>Enallagma parvum</i> Selys, 1876	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Ischnura aurora</i> (Brauer, 1865)	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	+	I, II
<i>Ischnura rufostigma</i> Selys, 1876	+							+							I, II
<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+				+									+	I, II
<i>Paracercion malayanum</i> (Selys, 1876)*	+	Mishra, 2007													
<i>Onychargia atrocyana</i> (Selys, 1865)	+	+	+						+						II
<i>Pseudagrion australasiae</i> Selys, 1876*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Pseudagrion decorum</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+	+		+	+	+	+	+				+	+	I, II, V
<i>Pseudagrion hypermelas</i> Selys, 1876*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Pseudagrion microcephalum</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+	+		+											I, II
<i>Pseudagrion rubiceps</i> (Selys, 1876)	+	+		+	+	+	+	+	+		+	+	+		I, II
<i>Rhodischnura nursei</i> (Morton, 1907)	+			+											I, II
<b>Family Lestidae</b>															
<i>Lestes elatus</i> Hagen in Selys, 1862*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Lestes praemorsus</i> Hagen in Selys, 1862					+										IV
<i>Lestes thoracicus</i> Laidlaw, 1920*	+	Prasad, 1996													
<i>Lestes umbrinus</i> Selys, 1891	+				+	+	+	+					+		I
<i>Lestes viridulus</i> Rambur, 1842	+	+	+		+	+			+		+			+	I
<b>Family Platycnemididae</b>															
<i>Copera marginipes</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+				+	+	+	+					+	+	V
<i>Copera vittata</i> Selys, 1863	+	+			+	+	+	+	+				+	+	V
<b>Family Protoneuridae</b>															
<i>Disparoneura quadrimaculata</i> (Rambur, 1842)	+				+										V, VI

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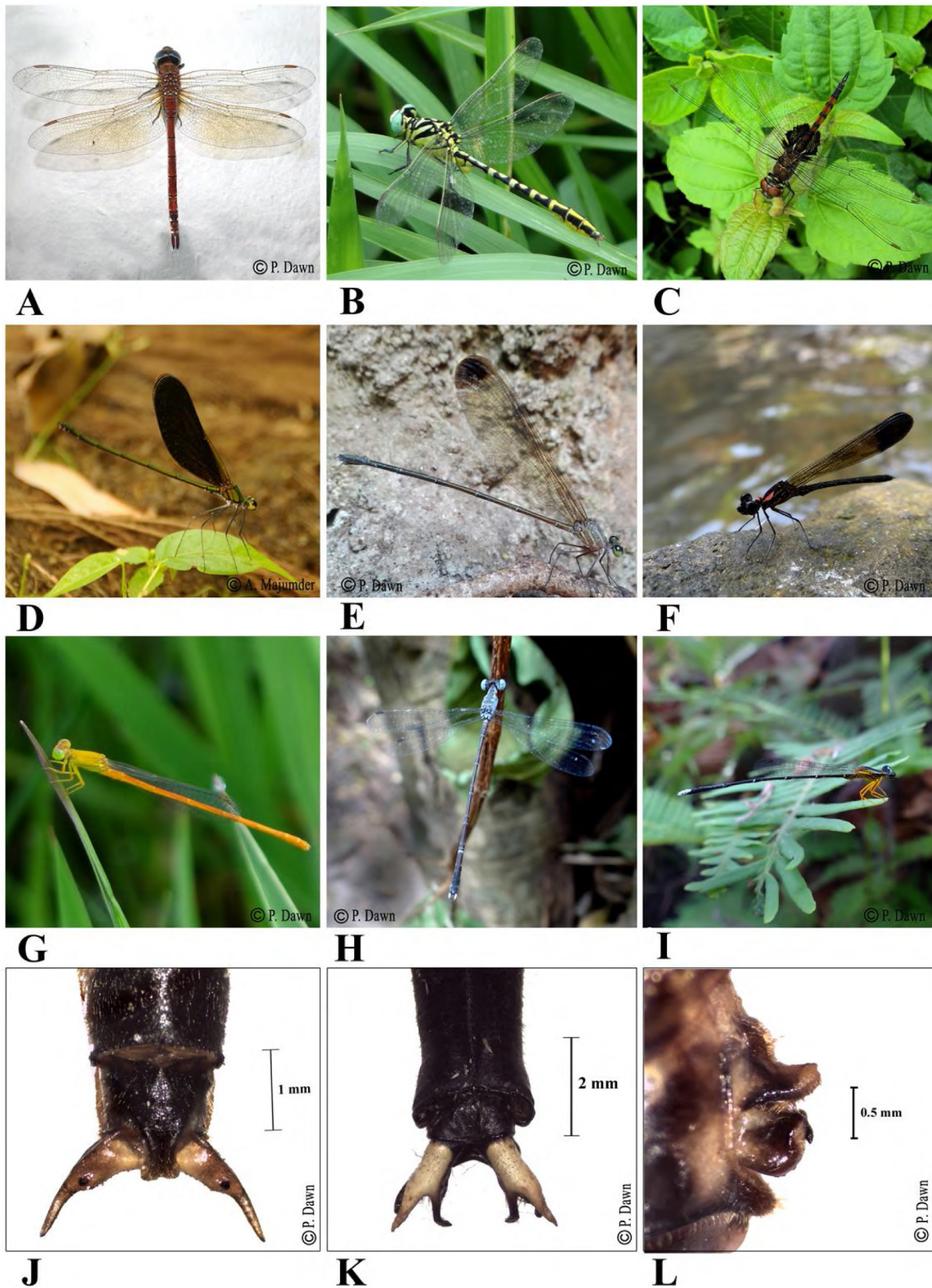
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**TABLE 3.** Odonata species reported new to the fauna of Chhattisgarh (\* indicates new records to Central India).

SPECIES	DISTRICT	LOCATION	LATITUDE, LONGITUDE & ALTITUDE (m)	ALTITUDE (m)	COLLECTION/OBSERVATION DATE	FIGURE	VOUCHER SPECIMEN REG. NO.
<i>Anaciaeshna jaspidea</i>	Surguja	Mainpat, Forest Rest House	22°49'03.8" N, 83°17'06.7" E	1137	12.ix.2012	Figure 4A	4980/H13
<i>Cyclogomphus heterostylus*</i>	Bastar	Jagdapur, Dharpur beat	19°06'01.9" N, 81°59'02" E	550	24.vi.2012	Figure 4B	4912/H13
<i>Cyclogomphus ypsilon</i>	Surguja	Mainpat, Stream Near Forest Rest House	22°49'08" N, 83°17'15" E	1060	12.ix.2012	Figure 4J	4913/H13
<i>Macrogomphus seductus*</i>	Bastar	Jagdapur, Tirathgarh FRH	18°54'47" N, 81°51'58" E	604	25.vii.2012	Figure 4K	4914/H13
<i>Microgomphus torquatus</i>	Bastar	Jagdapur, Titirgaon	19°07'22" N, 81°58'03.8" E	555	20.vi.2012	—	4915/H13
<i>Tramea limbata</i>	Raipur	Barnawapara WLS camp	21°24'00" N, 82°25'11" E	322	1.x.2011	Figure 4C	4916/H13
<i>Zygonyx iris iris*</i>	Jashpur	Badalkhol WLS, Dega Degi Nala	22°56'17" N, 83°44'49" E	577	27.v.2012	Figure 4L	4917/H13
<i>Neurobasis chinensis</i>	Jashpur	Badalkhol WLS, Dega Degi Nala	22°56'17" N, 83°44'49" E	577	27.v.2012	Figure 4D	Field photograph
<i>Vestalis apicalis</i>	Kabirdham	Rengakhar, Deodonga	22°01'27" N, 80°58'34" E	751	7.vi.2012	Figure 4E	4981/H13
<i>Rhinocypha bisignata</i>	Surguja	Tamor-Pingla WLS, Ramkola, Debijhariya	23°38'30" N, 82°59'07.3" E	556	15.v.2013	Figure 4F	4919/H13
<i>Ceriagrion rubiae</i>	Surguja	Mainpat, Stream Near Forest Rest House	22°49'08" N, 83°17'15" E	1060	12.ix.2012	Figure 4G	Field photograph
<i>Lestes praemorsus</i>	Kabirdham	Rengakhar, Deodonga	22°01'27" N, 80°58'34" E	751	7.vi.2012	Figure 4H	Field photograph
<i>Copera vittata</i>	Surguja	Tamor-Pingla WLS, Ramkola, Debijhariya	23°38'30" N, 82°59'07.3" E	556	15.v.2013	Figure 4I	4918/H13



**FIGURE 4.** Odonates newly recorded from Chhattisgarh. A. *Anaciaeschna jaspidea* (Burmeister) (♂); B. *Cyclogomphus ypsilon* Selys (♂); C. *Tramia limbata* (Desjardins) (♀); D. *Neurobasis chinensis* (Linnaeus) (♂); E. *Vestalis apicalis* Selys (♀); F. *Rhinocypha bisignata* Hagen in Selys (♂); G. *Ceriagrion rubiae* Laidlaw (♂); H. *Lestes praemorsus* Hagen in Selys (♂); I. *Copera vittata* Selys (♂); J. Dorsal view of Anal appendages, *Cyclogomphus heterostylus* Selys (♂); K. Dorsal view of Anal appendages, *Macrogomphus seductus* Fraser (♂); L. Side view of Genitalia, *Zygonyx iris iris* Selys (♂).