

# Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science

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Volume 24 | Annual Issue

Article 52

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1917

## Odonata of Iowa

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### Recommended Citation

Wells., Lloyd (1917) "Odonata of Iowa," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 24(1), 327-333.  
Available at: <https://scholarworks.uni.edu/pias/vol24/iss1/52>

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ODONATA OF IOWA.

LLOYD WELLS.

Iowa Odonata have not been given their due consideration in entomological records of the state. The few articles that have been written dealing with these insects as they occur within the state have been very local in nature. It is the purpose of this paper to list those species that have been recorded in the past, and to give new records that have been obtained during the writer's recent collecting trips. In each case the locality, date, and collector's name are given, where these are known. It was during the summer of 1916, while acting as insect collector for the Department of Zoology at Iowa State College, that the writer did most of his collecting, and it was then that he had many opportunities to notice species of this order in their natural habitats.

The Odonata have very interesting habits, and it is a real fascination to study them in their natural haunts. Any one who is interested in the group should read E. B. Williamson's account of collecting dragonflies, as recorded in his publication, "With its advent into an aerial life our dragonfly becomes one of the most beautiful of insects. Strong, rapacious and daring, possessed of striking individualities, they offer the rarest sport to the collector who frequents their haunts, observing the many idiosyncrasies of these lords of insect creation. Here little *Perithemis domitia* goes quietly and politely about his business, flitting from lily-pad to sedge stem, making his observations on the beauty of the day and the large number of diptera which are abroad. *Plathemis lydia* comes along, rudely inquiring into everyone's affairs, for our *Plathemis* is either a restless busy-body or an immaculate dandy who displays himself on some sunny log or rock. Then piratical *Anax junius* rushes up, makes a dash at *Plathemis*, glances at *Perithemis* and passes out of sight into the woods along the shore. And in the sedges all this time myriads of emerald and sapphire forms fight and make love in their different ways."

In order to appreciate this quotation one should see *Perithemis* go about his business, and piratical *Anax* rush up. It

is an education in itself just to watch these insects go through their countless performances.

Collections were made by the writer in four vicinities, namely, that area within a radius of three miles of Iowa State College at Ames, along the Des Moines River at Boone, on the Mississippi in the vicinity of Muscatine, and near the ponds of the United States Biological Station at Fairport. The latter is an ideal place for Odonata; especially do we find here those which inhabit sluggish streams, this doubtless being because the ponds are nearly stagnant. A few hundred feet away is the river, and here may be found *Gomphus*, *Enallagma*, *Epicordelia* and scores of others.

Near by in the fields *Sympetrum* may be found. On damp days, early mornings and late afternoons, many species are to be found in the tall grass neighboring the ponds. Dr. C. B. Wilson of State Normal School, Westfield, Massachusetts, has made extensive collections in this vicinity, and these are mentioned in this paper.

Recorded collections have been made in Iowa by the following individuals: Dr. C. B. Wilson, Fairport, Iowa; Newton Miller, Waterloo, Iowa; Morton J. Elrod, Des Moines, Iowa; A. D. Whedon, from northern Iowa. Publications recorded are "Some Notes on the Dragonflies of Waterloo, Iowa," by Newton Miller, *Entomological News*, December, 1906; "Iowa Odonata," by M. J. Elrod, *Entomological News*, January, 1898; "Preliminary Notes on the Odonata of Southern Minnesota," by A. D. Whedon, 15th Report State Entomologist of Minnesota, 1914. (Herein are contained several records of Odonata collected by Miss Alda M. Sharp of Gladbrook, Iowa.)

The natural arrangement followed in this paper is that given by E. B. Williamson, in his "Dragonflies of Indiana."

Unless it is otherwise mentioned all observations were made by the writer. Specimens taken by him are in the college collection at Iowa State College. The following is a list of the species that have been reported from Iowa.

#### CALOPTERYX Leach.

*C. maculata* Beauvois. Ames, July 11, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916; Muscatine; Fairport, August, 1915 (Wilson); Des Moines, July, 1893 (Elrod); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Tama county,

June 21, 1899 (Miss Sharpe). Found in abundance along shaded streams in early summer. Found also in woodlands to a small extent.

*C. aequabilis* Say. Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). "Twenty-five males, twenty-three females; open woods along Elk Run in shady places. Forty-eight specimens taken in less than two hours," Newton Miller.

## HETÆRINA Hagen.

*H. americana* Fabricius. Ames, July 10, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916; Muscatine; Fairport, August, 1915 (Wilson); Des Moines, 1893 (Elrod); Webster City, 1896 (Elrod); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). Taken in large numbers at Ames in middle of July. Scattering at Muscatine about August 1. Found along sluggish streams.

## LESTES Leach.

*L. eurinus* Say. Fairport, 1915 (Wilson); Lake Okoboji, June, 1909 (Whedon).

*L. unguiculata* Hagen. Ames, June 18, 1901 (Collection); Ames, August 29, 1916; Fairport, July, 1915 (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Des Moines, June 29, 1893 (Elrod). A very abundant species found in the grass near small streams and ponds.

*L. uncata* Kirby. Ames, June 20, 1892, June 18, 1901 (Collection); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). Habits similar to *L. unguiculatus*.

*L. forcipata* Rambur. Fairport, August 17, 1916; Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Des Moines, July, 1896 (Elrod). Found in grass around ponds.

*L. rectangularis* Say. Muscatine, July 28, 1916; Le Claire, Ames (Collection); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Fairport, August, 1916 (Wilson). Found along slough on Muscatine Island.

*L. disjunctus* Selys. Spirit Lake, July, 1909 (Whedon).

*A. putrida* Hagen. Fairport, July, 1916 (Wilson).

*A. tibialis* Rambur. Fairport, July, 1916 (Wilson).

*A. apicalis* Say. Muscatine, August 4, 1916; Des Moines, July, 1893 (Elrod). Found along Mississippi river.

*A. violacea* Hagen. Lake Okoboji (Whedon).

NEHALENNIA Selys.

*N. irene* Hagen. Ames, June 18, 1901 (Collection); Fairport, July, 1915 (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Des Moines, 1893; Clinton, 1897 (Elrod). A species found low in the grass.

*N. posita* Hagen. Muscatine, July 8, 1916. Found in same conditions as *N. irene* in low grassy places.

AMPHIAGRION Selys.

*A. saucium* Burmeister. Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). "Slough at north edge of Waterloo," Miller.

ENALLAGMA Charpentier.

*E. Hageni* Walsh. Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Des Moines (Elrod); Fairport, July, 1916 (Wilson). "More numerous than any of other 27 species," Miller. "Fairly abundant," Elrod.

*E. ebrium* Hagen. Fairport, July, 1916 (Wilson); Des Moines, June 29, 1893 (Elrod); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller).

*E. civile* Hagen. Ames, June 23, 1892 (Collection); Fairport, August 17, 1916; Muscatine, August 4, 1916. Found in abundance during August.

*E. carunculatum* Morse. Fairport, July, 1916 (Wilson).

*E. aspersum* Hagen. Fairport, July 2, 1916.

*E. geminatum* Rellicott. Fairport, July, 1916 (Wilson).

*E. antennatum* Say. Des Moines, 1898 (Elrod); Fairport, July 3, 1916 (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller).

*E. signatum*. Fairport, August 17, 1916; Clinton, June, 1897 (Elrod); Center Lake, Dickinson county, July 13, 1909, and Lake Okoboji, June 29, 1909 (Whedon).

ISCHNURA Charpentier.

*I. verticalis* Say. Muscatine, August 4, 1916; Fairport, August 17, 1916; July, 1916 (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). "One of earliest species out." Miller.

ANOMALAGRION Selys.

*A. hastatum* Say. Des Moines, 1895 (Elrod); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller).

GOMPHUS Leach.

*G. vastus* Walsh. Fairport, August 3, 1916; Clinton, June, 1897 (Elrod); Fairport (Wilson).

- G. crassus* Hagen. Fairport, 1916 (Wilson).  
*G. fraternus* Say. Boone, July 14, 1916; Fairport, August 3, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). Pair taken in copulation at Boone.  
*G. ceterius* Say. Muscatine, August 7, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Lansing, July, 1907 (Wilson).  
*G. pallidus* Rambur. Fairport, July 1, 1916 (Wilson); Muscatine, August 10, 1916.  
*G. furcifer* Hagen. Ames (Collection).  
*G. notatus* Rambur. Muscatine, July 23, 1916; Fairport (Wilson).  
*G. amnicola* Walsh. Fairport, August 3, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Des Moines, July, 1892 (Elrod).  
*G. plagiatu*s Selys. Muscatine, August 4, 1916; Fairport (Wilson).

## BOYERIA MacGachlan.

- B. vinosa* Say. Ames (Collection).

## BASIAESCHNA Selys.

- B. janata* Say. Fairport (Wilson).

## AESCHNA Fabricius.

- A. verticallis* Hagen. Ames, 1892 (Collection); Fairport, July 3, 1916; Fairport (Wilson).  
*A. constricta* Say. Ames, July 21, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916. Several individuals taken at Ames in pastured woodland.  
*A. pentacantha* Rambur. Waterloo, 1906 (Miller).

## ANAX Leach.

- A. junius* Drury. Ames, June 10, 1916; Fairport, July 3, 1916; Boone; Muscatine; Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Dunreath, August 4, 1896 (Elrod); Tama county (Miss Sharp); Clinton (Elrod); Fairport (Wilson). Found in abundance from June to September.

## MACROMIA Rambur.

- M. illinoensis* Walsh. Waterloo, 1906 (Miller).  
*M. taeniolata* Rambur. Fairport (Wilson).

## EPICORDELIA Selys.

- E. princeps* Hagen. Muscatine, August 10, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). Taken while flying in

groups. Found in company with *A. junius*, *P. flavescens*, *P. hymenaea*, *T. lacuata* and others.

TETRAGONEURIA Hagen.

*T. cynosura* Say. Waterloo, 1906 (Miller).

SOMATOCHLORA Selys.

*S. tenebrosa* Say. Ames, July 21, 1916. Taken in pastured woodland early in morning before a flight had been taken.

PANTALA Hagen.

*P. flavescens* Fabricius. Muscatine, August 17, 1916; Fairport, August 14, 1916. Found in abundance along Mississippi river.

*P. hymenaea* Say. Fairport, August 14, 1916; Muscatine, August 10, 1916; Fairport (Wilson). Taken in grass near ponds or sloughs.

TRAMEA Hagen.

*T. carolina* Linné. Ames (Collection).

*T. lacerata* Hagen. Muscatine, August 10, 1916; Fairport, August 3, 1916; Ames (Collection); Fairport (Wilson); Clinton, May, 1896 (Elrod). Found in abundance on sloughs near Mississippi river.

PERITHEMIS Hagen.

*P. domitia* Drury. Muscatine, July 28, 1916; Fairport, August 3, 1916; Fairport (Wilson).

CELETHEMIS Hagen.

*C. eponina* Drury. Fairport, August 3, 1916; Clinton (Elrod); Fairport (Wilson).

LEUCORHINIA Brittinger.

*L. intacta* Hagen. Ames, June 28, 1916; Fairport, June 30, 1916 (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller). Scattering near small ponds.

SYMPETRUM Neuman.

*S. rubicundulum* Say. Ames, July 6, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916; Muscatine, August 7, 1916; Fairport, August 17, 1916; Des Moines, August, 1892 (Elrod); Tama county, July 12 (Miss Sharp); Fairport (Wilson). Found almost everywhere; a very abundant species. Common in woodlands, near streams.

*S. obtrusum* Hagen. Ames, July 11, 1916; Muscatine, August 1, 1916; Fairport, August 14, 1916; Clinton (Elrod).

*S. vicinum* Hagen. Muscatine, August 1, 1916; Fairport, July 3, 1916; Des Moines, August, 1893 (Elrod).

*S. corruptum* Hagen. Ames (Collection); Fairport, August 3, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Dunreath, August 4, 1896 (Elrod).

## MESOTHEMIS Hagen.

*M. simplicicollis* Say. Muscatine, July 29, 1916; Fairport, August 3, 1916; Ames, July 6, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Sabula, June, 1897 (Elrod).

## PACHYDIPLAX Brauer.

*P. longipennis* Burmeister. Muscatine, July 28, 1916; Fairport, August 17, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916; Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Dunreath, August 4, 1896; Clinton, June, 1897 (Elrod).

## LEBELLULA Linné.

*L. lasalis* Say. Fairport, July 3, 1916; Muscatine, August 4, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916; Ames (Collection); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Des Moines, Clinton (Elrod); Fairport (Wilson). Found along Mississippi in abundance during July and August.

*L. quadrimaculata* Linné. Ames, June 16, 1916; Sabula, June, 1897 (Elrod).

*L. pulchella* Drury. Ames, June 16, 1916; Boone, July 20, 1916; Muscatine, August 1, 1916; Fairport, July 28, 1916; Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Fairport (Wilson); Dunreath, August 4, 1896 (Elrod); Clinton (Elrod); Tama county, July 29 (Miss Sharp). A very common species, found nearly everywhere in the state.

## PLATHEMIS Hagen.

*P. lydia* Drury. Fairfax, Iowa (Collection); Muscatine, August 7, 1916; Ames, June 15, 1916; Fairport, July 30, 1916; Boone, July 14, 1916; Fairport (Wilson); Waterloo, 1906 (Miller); Des Moines (Elrod); Tama county, July 29, June 28 (Miss Sharp).

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