The Dragonfly Family Libellulidae (Insecta: Odonata: Anisoptera) of Shiraz and its Vicinity (Fars Province, Iran)

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ABSTRACT- Thirteen species in five genera of the Libellulidae family were collected in a survey of dragonflies (Odonata) of Shiraz and its vicinity, involving 19 locations, The presented records of the libellulid dragonflies taken from the Fars province comprise a first time collection of two genera, *Sympetrum* and *Pantala*, and seven species, *Orthetrum anceps* Schnider, *Orthetrum taeniolatum* Schneider, *Orthetrum chrysostigma* Burmeister, *Sympetrum fonscolombii* Selys, *Sympetrum meridionale* Selys, *Crocothemis servilia* Drury, *Trithemis kirbyi* Selys, and *Pantala flavescens* Fabricius. A map of the localities of Fars province was provided as a table of the species' distributions and an identification key was presented for the genera and species the Libellulidae family of Shiraz and its vicinity.

Keywords: Dragonfly, Fars province, Iran, Libellulidae, Odonata

INTRODUCTION

Odonata are an aquatic order of insects with about 5500 described species worldwide (3). All known species are predators as adults and larvae. As such, the perform a valuable role as biological control agents for many harmful insects, especially those with aquatic larvae. They are unappreciated allies of mankind, assuredly saving lives through their control of mosquitoes and other disease vectors. Through their habits of eating a wide variety of flying herbivorous insects, they reduce the losses of many wetland crops (6). In addition they are excellent indicators of freshwater quality (3).

Odonata are classified into three suborders: Anisoptera (true dragonflies), Zygoptera (damselflies) and Anisozygoptera (a very small suborder) (3). Anisoptera comprise ten families among which the Libellulidae, with 140 genera and about 962 species is the largest (14). This cosmopolitan family, considered to be the family of most recent origin, contains about a quarter of the known species of living Odonata (1). These are the most common and most recognised dragonflies. On shining, tremulous wings they hover over every pond and pool (11). Members of this group

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are small to large in size and variably colored, occasionally having metallic coloration (2).

Libellulids breed principally in still-water, or lentic habitats, although larvae of some species are stream dwellers. Larvae of most species are secretive, hiding among rotten vegetation at the bottom of the pond or lake; a few others have become secondarily adapted for a more active existence among growing vegetation (4). Many species of Libellulidae can thrive in waters with low dissolved oxygen levels and a few species occupy brackish water habitats. Some species glide and migratory flights may be made up of several libellulid species (14).

As Heidari and Dumont stated "Biogeographically, the Iranian odonate fauna comprises several distinct groups and the dragonfly faunas of large parts of Iran are still little known, and the ranges of individual species remain to be determined" (7).

The present study was conducted to determine the distribution map and to prepare suitable identification keys for the Libellulidae genera and species of Shiraz and its vicinity.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

To collect the libellulid dragonflies, sweep nets were used, with a mouth diameter of 45 cm and extensible handle lengths of maximum 2 m; the color of the net was green or white. The specimens were collected from 19 locations near Shiraz in Fars province (see Map. 1) between April-October 2008.

For preserving, two references were used (9, 10) with some modifications. Brifely, specimens were killed swiftly, using ethyl acetate vapor in a killing jar. The wings of the newly killed specimens were folded back and held in that position by placing the specimen in a special folded envelope on which relevant collecting information such as date and location was recorded. The envelopes were stored in suitable containers for transport. Light blue or green colored specimens, whose colors might have changed after air drying, were exposed to saturated ethyl acetate vapor for 12 hours. This method helps to preserve the natural color of dragonflies. Finally specimens were pinned and mounted with the fore and hind wings and abdominal appendages in their normal positions as in flight. Teneral specimens tend to shrink during mounting and drying, so fully matured adult dragonflies were prefered. In some species, teneral specimens or newly emerged dragonflies do not show permanent color patterns or other key characteristics important for identification, making them difficult to be identified.

A morphological approach was adopted in this study. Some photos from important taxonomic characters were taken using a digital camera attached to a stereoscopic microscope. All specimens are now deposited in the Plant Protection Department, College of Agriculture, Shiraz University.

FAUNISTIC RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Previously, 12 genera and 34 species of Libellulidae were known in Iran, of which six genera and nine species were reported from Fars province (7, 8). The

Table 1. Distribution of libellulid species collected in Shiraz and its vicinity

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Genus: Crocothemis Brauer, 1868																			
C. erythraea (Brullé, 1832)							*	*	*	*	*	*				*	*	*	*
C. servilia (Drury, 1773)			*	*	*		*	*	*	*	*	*		*			*		
Orthetrum Newmann, Genus: 1833																			
O. anceps (Schneider, 1845)					*									*					
O. brunneum (Fonscolombei, 1837)			*		*	*	*		*			*	*						
O. chrysostigma (Burmeister, 1839)		*														*	*	*	*
O. sabina (Drury, 1770)				*							*								
O. taeniolatum (Schneider, 1845)					*		*											*	
Genus: Pantala Hagen, 1861																			
P. flavescens (Fabricius, 1798)			*		*				*		*	*							
Genus: Sympetrum Newman, 1833																			
S. Fonscolombeii (Selys, 1840)				*					*	*		*	*	*		*	*		
S. meridionale (Selys, 1841)									*										
Genus: <i>Trithemis</i> Brauer, 1868 <i>T. annulata</i> (Palisot de Beauvois, 1807)	*		*		*						*						*	*	
T. festiva (Rambur, 1842)				*	*		*	*								*		*	*
T. kirbyi Selys, 1891					*									*					

present study identified 13 species in five genera, including two newly recorded genera for Fars Province, *Sympetrum* and *Pantala*, and seven species, *Orthetrum anceps* (Schneider), *Orthetrum taeniolatum* (Schneider), *Orthetrum chrysostigma* (Burmeister), *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys), *Sympetrum meridionale* (Selys), *Crocothemis servilia* (Drury), *Trithemis kirbyi* Selys, and *Pantala flavescens* Fabricius, (compare, 7).

The list of species and localities *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brulle, 1832)

Material examined: Dashte-arzhan, 2 males, 13 Jul 2008; Mahmoodiyeh, 1 male, 20 Aug 2008; Pole-Parwizi, 4 males, 30 Aug 2008; Kherak, 1 male, 9 Sep 2008; Badjgah, 3 males, 22 Sep 2008; Chelehgah, 1 male, 3 Oct 2008; Dry River, 3 males, 13 Oct 2008; Sayed Hossein, 2 males, 22 Oct 2008; Tange-Chowgan, 1 male, 22 Oct 2008.

Crocothemis servilia (Drury, 1773)

Material examined: Dashte-arzhan,1 female, 13 Jul 2008; Pole-Fasa, 2 males 4 females, 15 Jul 2008; Chamran river, 1 female, 29 Jul 2008; Kohmare sorkhi, 1 female, 1 Aug 2008; Cheshmeh Golestan, 1 female, 11 Aug 2008; Mahmoodiyeh, 1

Kiani & Minaei

male, 1 female, 20 Aug 2008; Pole-Parwizi, 4 females, 30 Aug 2008; Kherak, 1 female, 9 Sep 2008; Badjgah, 2 females, 22 Sep 2008; Chelehgah, 1 female, 3 Oct 2008; Dry River, 1 female, 13 Oct 2008.

Orthetrum anceps (Schneider, 1845)

Material examined: Kohmare sorkhi, 1 male, 1 female, 1 Aug 2008; Cheshmeh Golestan, 1 female, 11 Aug 2008.

Orthetrum brunneum (Fonscolombe, 1837)

Material examined: Chamran river, 2 males, 4 females, 8 Jul 2008; ghalat, 1 male, 13 Jul 2008; Dashte-arzhan, 1 male, 13 Jul 2008; Mahmoodiyeh, 1 male, 3 females, 20 Aug 2008; Tale-Beyza, 1 male, 22 Aug 2008; Badjgah, 1 male, 22 Sep 2008.

Orthetrum chrysostigma (Burmeister, 1839)

Material examined: Jooshak, 2 males, 22 May 2008; Khanzenian, 1 male, 22 Sep 2008; Dry River, 2 males, 13 Oct 2008; Sayed Hossein, 3 males, 22 Oct 2008; Tange-Chowgan, 1 male, 22 Oct 2008.

Orthetrum sabina (Drury, 1773)

Material examined: Pole-Fasa, 3 males, 2 females, 15 Jul 2008; Pole-Parwizi, 1 female 30 Aug 2008.

Orthetrum taeniolatum (Schneider, 1845)

Material examined: Kohmare sorkhi, 2 males, 2 females, 1 Aug 2008; Mahmoodiyeh, 1 male, 20 Aug 2008; Sayed Hossein, 1 male, 22 Oct 2008.

Pantala. flavescens (Fabricius, 1798)

Material examined: Dashte-arzhan, 2 males, 1 females, 13 Jul 2008; Chamran river, 1 male 29 Jul 2008; Kohmare sorkhi, 1 female, 1 Aug 2008; Pole-Parwizi, 3 males, 3 females, 30 Aug 2008; Badjgah, 6 males, 1 female, 22 Sep 2008.

Sympetrum. fonscolombii (Selys, 1840)

Material examined: Dashte-arzhan, 1 male, 13 Jul 2008; Pole-Fasa, 1 female, 15 Jul 2008; Cheshmeh Golestan, 1 male 1 female, 11 Aug 2008; Tale-Beyza, 2 females, 22 Aug 2008; Kherak, 1 female, 9 Sep 2008; Badjgah, 7 males, 2 females 22 Sep 2008; Khanzenian, 2 males, 1 female, 22 Sep 2008; Dry River, 5 males, 1 female, 13 Oct 2008.

Sympetrum meridionale (Selys, 1841)

Material examined: Dashte-arzhan, 1 female, 13 Jul 2008.

Trithemis annulata (Palisot de Beauvois, 1807)

Material examined: Chamran blvd, 1 male, 15 May 2008; Chamran river, 1 male, 8 Jul 2008; Kohmare sorkhi, 1 male, 1 Aug 2008; Pole-Parwizi, 1 male, 30 Aug 2008; Dry River, 1 male, 13 Oct 2008; Sayed Hossein, 3 males, 22 Oct 2008.

Trithemis festiva (Rambur, 1842)

Material examined: Pole-Parwizi, 1 female, 30 Aug 2008; Kohmare sorkhi, 4 males, 1 female, 1 Aug 2008; Mahmoodiyeh, 1 male, 1 female, 20 Aug 2008; Khanzenian, 1 female, 22 Sep 2008; Chelehgah, 1 female, 3 Oct 2008; Sayed Hossein, 3 males, 22 Oct 2008; Tange-Chowgan, 2 males, 3 females, 22 Oct 2008.

Trithemis kirbyi Selys, 1891

Material examined: Kohmare sorkhi, 3 females, 1 Aug 2008; Cheshmeh Golestan, 1 female, 11 Aug 2008.

General Features of Libellulidae

Libellulidae are distinguished from the other family in the superfamily Libelluloidea, the Corduliidae, by having the eyes always confluent and contiguous; the posterior margin of eyes straight (2, 13); the vertex well developed; the labium with middle lobe very small and not fissured, and the lateral lobes very large (2). In this family there is a marked difference between the venation of the fore- and hind wings and the wings are variable in shape and width (Figs. 1, 2, 5 and 6). In the forewing, the discoidal cell is far beyond the arculus and elongates along the breadth of the wing, usually traversed but is retracted to the arculus in the hind wing and elongates in the long axis. The base of hind wing or anal angle is always rounded in both sexes. A membranula is present, occasionally reduced. Antenodal veins are usually numerous, those of the costal space continuous with those of the subcostal space, the last one incomplete in some genera. Primary antenodals are indistinguishable from the others. The foot-shaped or L-shaped anal loop is elongated, reaching its greatest development in this group and the fusion of the veins rising from the arculus is most pronounced (1, 2). The abdomen is cylindrical, triquetral or depressed; segment 2 lacks or eillettes and segment 10 lacks a keel; and the anal appendages are simple and rather generalized throughout the family. Only one pair of hamuli is present (2). The females do not have a well developed ovipositor (1, 13), but the genital lobe is well developed and the vulvar scales are small, rarely elongated (2).

Key to Genera of Libellulidae of the Fars province.

Crocothemis Brauer, 1868

Males colored partly red, females brown. Posterior lobe of pronotum small. Legs short. Abdomen depressed. Wings hyaline or partly colored at base with amber spot. No cells between IR₃ and Rspl doubled; arculus situated between first₁ and second antenodals₂. Last antenodal is incomplete. Pterostigma and membranula large. In male accessory genitalia, lamina depressed and base of hamuli rectangular, with outer branch narrowing distally in side view, foliate in ventral view; inner hook strongly curved, with one to several apical and subapical spines. Genital lobe elongate-oval, bent over backwards. Females colors paler than males, often yellowish brown. Vulvar part have an erected scale. Two species are found in Shiraz and its vicinity.

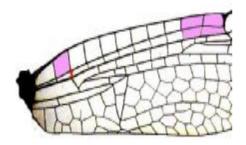


Fig. 1. Orthetrum sp. Forewing

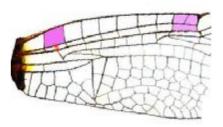


Fig. 2. Crocothemis sp. Forewing



Fig. 3. Orthetrum sp. Posterior lobe of pronotum



Fig. 4. Orthetrum sp. Head

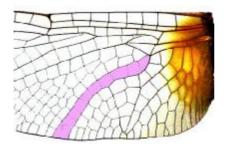


Fig. 5. Crocothemis sp. Hind wing

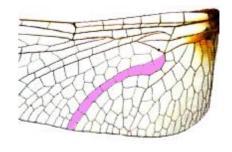


Fig. 6. Sympetrum sp. Hind wing



Fig. 7. Sympetrum sp. Pronotum and head

Key to species of *Crocothemis*

Orthetrum Newmann, 1833

Dragonflies of variable size. Frons wider than clypeus. Vertex with a groove. Hind rim of pronotum large, erect, emarginate medially, hairy. Abdomen variously shaped, often more or less constricted at S_3 ; lamina usually erect anteriorly; hamuli species specific; vesica sperminalis with a flagellum and flanges (alae); vulvar scales little developed. Females with sides of S_8 more or less foliate; arculus situated at antenodal₂; discoidal cell in forewing just beyond that in hind wing, and discoidal cell in hind wing situated at level of arculus; discoidal field beginning with 3 rows of cells in forewing and expanding to 4 or more at wing margin; membranula large. Abdomen and thorax of males, covered by a blue pruinosity in mature adults. Five species found in Shiraz and its vicinity.



Fig. 8. Male accessory genitalia of *C. Servilia*, *Servilia*

Fig. 9. Female genitalia part of *C*. ventral & lateral views

Kiani & Minaei





Fig. 10. C. erythtraea, Male accessory genitalia Fig. 11. Dark membranula of O. Sabina

Key to Species of Orthetrum

Membranula black or dark brown (Fig. 11) Membranula pale grey or white	
2. A trace of basal amber spot on hind wing (Fig. 11); size about 4 cm or more.3 a.No amber spot in hind wing; size smaller than 4cm	
$S.S_{1-2}$ bulbously swollen, abruptly constricted at S_3 ; S_{7-10} expanded more than S_{4-5} ; appendages pale yellow; males without pruinesence (Fig. 12)	
1. One row of cells between Rs and Rspl (Fig. 14)	
5. Male lamina anteriorly with short hairs; genital lobe rounded; anterior hook of namuli strong, turned outwards, pointed, posterior hook rounded, well posterior to and below anterior hook; cleft between them deep and wide (Fig. 18). In female abdomen sides of S_8 rather strongly foliate (Fig. 17); four or more cells between IR3 and Rspl are doubled (Fig. 15);	
6. Male lamina anterior with long hairs; genital lobe rectangular; anterior hook of namuli small, outwardly turned, pointed; posterior hook ending in hirsute ridge below and external to the anterior hook (Fig. 16). In females abdomen sides of S ₈ not foliated; cells between IR3 and Rspl variable	



Fig. 12. O. Sabina, Male abdomen

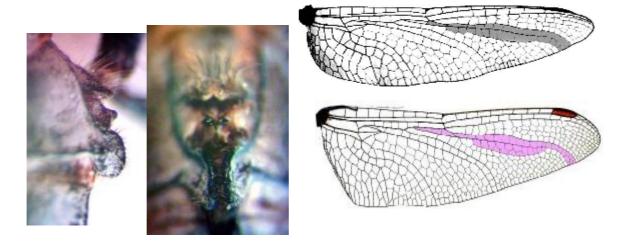


Fig. 13. O. chrysostigma, Male accessory genitalia

Figs. 14 and 15. O. anceps (up)
O. brunneum (down), Hind wing



Fig. 16. O. taeniolatum, Male accessory genitalia



Fig. 17 and 18. O. brunneum, Male accessory genitalia (left). Female vulvar area (right)

Pantala Hagen, 1861

Medium sized dragonflies. Head very large. Pronotum small, legs long. Wings long; hind wing very broad at base; forewing pterostigma longer than hind wing pterostigma; arculus between antenodal_{1,2}; last antenodal in forewing incomplete; R₂ strongly bisinuous. Hind wing with two cross-veins between triangle and wing base. One species: *Pantala flavescens* found in Shiraz and its vicinity. This species is global in distribution (but is rare in Europe). Male accessory genitalia as in Fig. 19, Female vulvar area as in Fig. 20.





Fig. 19. *Pantala flavescens*, Male accessory genitalia *Sympetrum* Newman, 1833



Fig. 20. Pantala flavescens Female vulvar area

These are rather small, mostly autumnal dragonflies, brilliant red in color when mature. The teneral color is usually olivaceous or yellow. Pronotum with very strongly developed posterior collar, fringed with long hairs; stripes of white (reduced sometimes to inferior spots) often appear upon the sides of the thorax, sometimes narrower ones occur anteriorly in teneral specimens, but these tend to disappear completely with age, the entire thorax becoming reddish brown. The sides of abdominal segments 3 to 9 bear a line of black triangles which tend to spread over the dorsum and are their widest on S₈; abdomen cylindrical or triquetral in crosssection, S₈ not dilated in the female. Genitalia variable and species-specific in both sexes. Wings hyaline or marked with brown and yellow, with flavescent tinge at the base, of very variable extent, varying from almost none at all to over half of the wing, veins often red; arculus situated between antenodal₁ and antenodal₂; discoidal field with 3 rows of cells initially and throughout, contracting near wing margin; Rspl with 1 or 2 rows of cells; membranula moderately large; last antenodal incomplete; discoidal cell in forewing narrow, traversed; in hind wing situated at base of arculus. Sectors of arculus fused briefly in forewing, but with longer fusion in hind wing.

Two species are found in Shiraz and its vicinity.

Key to Species of Sympetrum



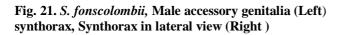




Fig. 22. S. meridionale Female in lateral view

Trithemis (Brauer, 1868)

Dragonflies of small to moderate size, with red abdomen, or black with yellow markings, often pruinose. Head small, eye contact short. Pronotum with small, rounded hind lobe; synthorax small to moderately large; legs rather long and slim, black in color, or femur black and tibia reddish. Abdomen variable, slender or depressed in adult males, yellow, red, purple or black and cylindrical in most females. Male accessory genitalia prominent, hamuli always with a strong apical hook; females without foliate expansions on S₈; vulvar valvules very small. Wings moderately to very long, fairly wide; membranula medium sized; discoidal in forewing narrow or wide, situated slightly distal to discoidal in hind wing; arculus proximal to antenodal₂; sectors of arculus fused at their origin; pterostigma small and about 2.5 mm long; last antenodal usually incomplete; discoidal cell in forewing traversed, in hind wing usually entire, discoidal field composed of three rows of cells throughout; R₃ generally nearly straight, Rspl with two rows of cells, several cells between IR₃ and Rspl doubled (rarely absent). Three species are found in Shiraz and its vicinity.

Key to Species* of *Trithemis* **of Fars province**

*Since some species of this genus are strictly heterochromous, males and females are separated in this key. No male for <i>T. kirbyi</i> and no female for <i>T. annulata</i> were found
in this study.
1. Female
Male
2. Vulvar valvules shallowly emarginate and seems straight; sides of S_{3-10} with
extensive black markings
Vulvar valvules medially emarginate and deeply U-shaped as in (Fig. 25); sides of
S ₃ -10 without black markings
3. Base of all wings broad amber coloration, extending to antenodal ₄ and beyond
tip of discoidal cell in hind wing (Fig. 24); membranula white or pale grey; wing
venation red and orangeish
Base of hind wing with small dark brown spot; membranula dark brown; wing
venation black
4. Broad amber spot between wing base and midway to nodus on all
four wings
-Wing spot in base of hind wings5
5. Wing spot on hind wing rather small and dark, brownish; abdomen not depressed,
most of thorax and abdomen blue-black (Fig. 27); accessory genitalia as in (Fig.
28)
Wing spot on hind wing clear amber colored; abdomen depressed, S_4 and S_5 about
twice as long as wide; abdomen reddish with purple sheen (Fig. 29); accessory
genitalia as in (Fig. 30)



Fig.23. T. festiva, Vulvar area

Fig. 24. T. kirbyi, Female

Fig. 25. T. kirbyi, Vulvar area







Fig. 26. T. festiva, Female

Fig. 27. T. festiva, Male

Fig. 28. *T. festiva*, Male accessory genitalia



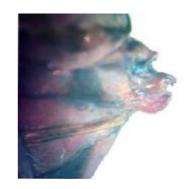
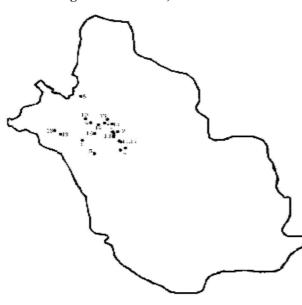


Fig. 29. T. annulata, Male

Fig. 30. *T. annulata*, Male accessory genitalia



Legend of Map1:

1.	Chamran blvd.	11. Pole-Parwizi
2.	Jooshak	12. Badjgah
3.	Chamran river	13. Tale-Beyza
4.	Pole-Fasa	14. Cheshmeh Golestan
5.	Kohmare sorkhi	15. Anjireh
6.	Ghalat	16. Khanzenian
7.	Mahmoodiyeh	17. Dry River
8.	Chelehgah	18. Sayed Hossein
9.	Dashte-arzhan	19. Tange-Chowgan
10.	Kherak	

Map 1. Sampling locations in Shiraz and its vicinity from Fars Province of Iran

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authours wish to thank Dr. Alice Wells, from the Australian Biological Resources Study, Australia for comments on the manuscript. Prof. Dr. H. J. Dumont, Dr. A. Salur, Mr. Schorr, Dr. Kalkman, Dr. S. Sadeghi and Mr. H. Heidari are greatly appreciated for sending the references and their encouragement during this study. We also are grateful for the helpful criticisms provided by three anonymous referees.

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آسیابکهای خانوادهی

(INSECTA: ODONATA: ANISOPTERA) Libellulidae

شیراز و حومه (استان فارس، ایران)

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چكيده در پژوهشي كه بر روى فون طياره مانند هاى خانوادهي Libellulidae در شيراز و حومه در نـوزده جايگاه از استان فارس انجام پـذيرفت، سـيزده گونـه از پـنج جـنس در خـانوادهي Sympetrum جمـع آورى شـدند. دو جـنس: Pantala و هفـت گونـه: و Sympetrum و Schnider, و هفـت گونـه: Orthetrum taeniolatum Schneider, Orthetrum chrysostigma Burmeister, Sympetrum fonscolombeii Selys, Sympetrum meridionale Selys, Crocothemis بـراى اولـين servilia Drury, Trithemis kirbyi Selys, and Pantala favescens Fabricius, بار از استان فارس گزارش مي شوند. نقشهي جايگاه هاي جستجو شده در استان، جدول پراكنـدگي گونـههـا و كليد شناسايي جنسها و گونههاي Libellulidae ارائه شده است.

واژه های کلیدی: آسیابک Libellulidae ،Odonata، استان فارس، ایران

^{*} به ترتیب دانشجوی پیشین کارشناسی ارشد و استادیار