

**A RECORD OF THE EXUVIAE OF *ORTHETRUM TRINACRIA* (SEL.) FROM
NORTHERN EXTREMADURA, SPAIN
(ANISOPTERA: LIBELLULIDAE)**

The hitherto known records of *Orthetrum tri-*

nacria in Spain were reviewed by F.J. OCHARAN LARRONDO (1987, *Los odonatos de Asturias y de España: aspectos sistematicos y faunisticos*, Mem. Doctor Biol., Univ. Oviedo). During two consecutive years we have conducted observations on this species at diverse points in northern Extremadura, where a particularly stable population was discovered at the "El Robledo" Reservoir, in Malpartida de Plasencia, Cáceres (U.T.M. 30TTK4334). Since ovipositing females and teneral were often observed, we have undertaken a systematical collection of the anisopteran exuviae in order to ascertain the local autochthony of this species.

In all, 121 exuviae were gathered, among which 32 are referable to *O. trinacria*, viz.

- 13-VII-86: *Anax imperator* Leach (1), *Tritemis annulata* (P. de Beauv.) (2), *Orthetrum cancellatum* (L.) (2), *O. trinacria* Sel. (8);
- 22-VIII-86: *A. imperator* (1), *T. annulata* (2);
- 14-IV-87: *Gomphus pulchellus* Sel. (1);
- 3-V-87: *A. imperator* (10), *G. pulchellus* (1), *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé) (1), *O. cancellatum* (2), *O. trinacria* (1);
- 10-VI-87: *A. imperator* (5), *G. pulchellus* (3), *C. erythraea* (4), *T. annulata* (1), *O. cancellatum* (3), *O. trinacria* (10);
- 21-VI-87: *A. imperator* (2), *G. pulchellus* (1), *C. erythraea* (5), *O. cancellatum* (4), *O. trinacria* (12);
- 17-VII-87: *A. imperator* (3), *G. pulchellus* (11), *C. erythraea* (2), *T. annulata* (18), *O. cancellatum* (3), *O. trinacria* (1);
- 6-VIII-87: *G. pulchellus* (1).

In all cases *O. trinacria* exuviae were found attached to reeds, as were those of *A. imperator*, *C. erythraea*, *O. cancellatum* and *T. annulata*, while *G. pulchellus* occurred among the stones on the banks.

There is a good agreement between the number of recovered exuviae and that of the adults noticed on certain dates (cf. A. BENITES-DONOSO & M.J. GARCIA-PARRON, 1988, *Boletín Asoc. esp. Ent.*, in press), June and July being the months of the greatest abundance of adults and exuviae. As it appears from our record, the adult emergence is completed by the end of July.

The *O. trinacria* exuviae are very similar to

those of *O. cancellatum*. To the distinguishing characters, as stated by G. CARCHINI (1983, *Soc. int. odonatol. rapid. Comm.* (Suppl.) 1: 1-101), the better developed middle tooth of the dorsal edge of prementum, the shape of the epiproct, and the reddish coloration of the ventral region of the last three abdominal segments in *O. trinacria* could be added.

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