



Fig. 1. *Anax concolor* preying on *Philaethria wernickei*.
(Phot.: C.H.P. Oliveira).

PREDATION ON *PHILAETHRIA WERNICKEI* (RÖBER) BY *ANAX CONCOLOR* BR. IN PARQUE NACIONAL DA RESTINGA DE JURUBATIBA, RIO DE JANEIRO, SE BRAZIL (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE; ANISOPTERA: AESHNIDAE)
In March 2002, during a long-term ornithological study in the said National Park, a female *A. concolor* was noticed preying on the butterfly, *P. wernickei* (Fig. 1). The dragonfly was seen at 10:00 am on the ground near a lagoon (22°16'S, 41°39'W), eating the butterfly's head. After this, the dragonfly flew off with its prey to a shrub, where, by the time we caught it, it had completely consumed the butterfly's head.

In the same type of habitat, in the state of Espírito

Santo, Brazil, *A. concolor* was recorded preying also on other dragonflies (P. DeMARCO & T. SANTOS-DeMARCO, 1998, *Notul. odonatul.* 5: 2-3).

C.E.G. PINHEIRO (1996, *Biol. J. Linn. Soc.* 59: 351-365) considered *Philaethria* as presumably unpalatable and/or aposematic. According to K.S. BROWN (1992, *História natural da Serra do Japi*, Campinas/Fapesp., São Paulo), *Siproeta stelenes* is a mimic of *P. wernickei*, which indicates that the latter may be unpalatable. However, the possible unpalatability of *P. wernickei* apparently does not affect the voracious *A. concolor*. PINHEIRO (1996, loc. cit.) also recorded the tropical kingbird, *Tyrannus melancholicus* (Vieillot) (Tyrannidae), as a predator of *P. wernickei*. Therefore, it seems the unpalatability of *Philaethria* spp. may not affect all predators.

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