

serve, Natal (KwaZulu-Natal, RSA; 30°42'S, 30°16'E). The re-examination of these brought an exciting result: One exuvia, collected on 8-IV-1988 from a rocky, fast flowing section of the Umzimkulwana River, shows the distinct characters of the genus *Microgomphus* Sel., e.g. *M. camerunensis* Longfield (S.A. CORBET, 1977, *Odonatologica* 6: 55-68) or the Asian *M. chelifera* Selys (drawing of M.A. Lieftinck, in P.S. CORBET 1962, *A biology of dragonflies*, Witherby, London), by having a characteristically rectangular and flattened abdomen. At the same site exuviae of some other gomphids were collected, viz. *Ceratogomphus pictus* Sel., *Onychogomphus supinus* Sel., and *Paragomphus cognatus* (Ramb.). Other characteristic species breeding in the river are *Platycypha c. caligata* (Sel.), *P. f. fitzsimonsi* (Pinhey) and *Z. natalensis*.

As shown by M.J. SAMWAYS (1999, *Odonatologica* 28: 13-62) the Odonata fauna of the Republic of South Africa is well known, especially when compared with other African countries. There is no reference to a *Microgomphus* species either in the elder (E.C.G. PINHEY, 1951, *Transv. Mus. Mem.* 5: 1-335; – 1985, *J. ent. Soc. sth. Afr.* 48: 1-48) literature or in the recent checklists of South Africa (M.J. SAMWAYS, 1999, as above; – M.J. SAMWAYS & B.C. WILMOT, 2003, in: I.J. de Moor et al., [Eds], *Guides to the freshwater invertebrates of southern Africa*, Vol. 7: *Insecta* 1, pp. 160-212, Water Res. Commn, Gezina, RSA).

Microgomphus is an African and S Asian genus with 7 species in Africa (K.-D.B. DIJKSTRA, 2003, *Cimbebasia* 18: 191-206), occurring mainly in central parts of the continent. Two species have been encountered in SE Africa, viz. *M. nyassicus* (Grünberg) in Zambia, Zimbabwe, Malawi, D. R. Congo and Tanzania (cf. V. CLAUSNITZER, 2001, *Odonatologica* 30: 49-66; – M.J. SAMWAYS & B.C. WILMOT, 2003, as above), while *M. mozam-*

MICROGOMPHUS NEW TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN ODONATA FAUNA (ANISOPTERA: GOMPHIDAE)

During field studies on the reproductive behaviour of *Zygonyx natalensis* (Martin) (A. MARTENS, 1991, *Odonatologica* 20: 293-302) Odonata exuviae were collected at the Umzimkulwana River in the Oribi Gorge Nature Re-

bicensis Pinhey was recorded from E Zimbabwe and Moçambique only (E.C.G. PINHEY, 1981, *Occ. Pap. natn. Mus. Rhod.* 6: 557-632). Hence, the southernmost records of these are at least 1000 km N of Oribi Gorge. Because larvae of the two species have not yet been described we cannot ascertain whether our specimen is referable to one of these or it represents a hitherto unknown species.

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