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THE DRAGONFLY *ATRATOTHEMIS REELSI* WILSON, 2005 IN NAMDAPHA TIGER RESERVE, NORTHEAST INDIA- AN ADDITION TO THE INDIAN ODONATA FAUNA

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Reviewer: Parag Rangnekar

Abstract

A single male of Libellulid dragonfly *Atratothemis reelsi* was recorded and photographed on 19.v.2019 in Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India. This record represents the western most range of the genus and species, also an addition for the Indian Odonata fauna.

Introduction

Atratothemis Wilson, 2005 is a newly described monotypic genus of Libellulidae family, represented by the type species *Atratothemis reelsi*. The type specimen was collected during 1998, in Mulun of Guangxi, China (Wilson, 2005). After that, K. Wilson recorded the species a second time from the same province during 2011 (Wilson & Reels, 2013). Later, Zhang (2011) also reported the species from Xiaoqikong Park of southern Guizhou Province, China in the month of May. One male individual was collected and four individuals were observed during the survey. H. Zhang also recorded the species from Yinggezhuai of Hainan, at about 600 m altitude (Wilson & Reels, 2013). From Lao PDR this species has also been reported (Wilson & Reels, 2013; Yokoi & Souphanthong, 2014). Yokoi (2003) first reported five males and one female as "*Camacinia* sp.?" from 50 km west of Lak Sao, central Lao PDR. Later, G. Reels considered these records as *A. reelsi* (Wilson & Reels 2013). The species has been reported by Sribal et al. (2018) from Kaeng Krachan National Park of Phetchaburi province, Thailand. They have collected 3 males between 2014 to 2016, from Kaeng Krachan National Park during the month of March to

June. During May 2015; *A. reelsi* also has been reported from Mau Son Mountain of Lang Son Province, in northeastern Vietnam (Kompier 2015). And most recently two male individuals were recorded during May 2017, from Tay Giang District of Quang Nam Province, represent second locality of *A. reelsi* in Vietnam (Karube 2020).

In the present note, we report the occurrence of *A. reelsi*, in Namdapha Tiger Reserve of Arunachal Pradesh, India as first record for the Indian subcontinent.

Methods and Study Site

On 19 May, 2019, during a regular field trip for butterflies along the Miao to Vijoyanagar road at around the 12th Mile (27.507205 N & 96.328768 E) from Namdapha Tiger Reserve, the authors came across a dragonfly perched on a dry stick at about 1.5 m from the ground. The dragonfly looked unique in appearance and on close observation it was indeed different and never sighted before in Namdapha Tiger Reserve. Photographs of the species were taken but on that day, only a few photographs could be taken. To document the presence of the species from the locality, the authors went back to the same area the next day, but could not find the species. The habitat comprised of sub-tropical forest type with

Terminalia myriocarpa as dominant tree species. Various species of trees include *Gmelina arborea*, *Shorea assamica*, *Altingia* sp. and *Erythrina* sp., etc. and the undergrowth comprised *Cheilocostus speciosus*, *Piper* sp., etc.

Result

Based on photographs, the individual belonging to the Libellulidae family was identified as *Atratothemis reelsi* with the help of literature (Wilson, 2005). This observation represents the westernmost known record of the species, as well as a new record for the Indian subcontinent.

Discussion

According to Wilson (2005), *A. reelsi* is superficially similar to the blackish members of the genus *Rhyothemis*, but "pronounced undulation of R3, bridge with accessory cross-veins, high numbers of AX (antennodal cross-veins), and small narrow genital lobe" of *Atratothemis* can differentiate it from *Rhyothemis*. *A. reelsi* also resembles *Camacinia othello* Tillyard, 1908 in appearance, which is confined to the Australian region. The "uniform distal margin of the anal loop below the heel of *C. othello* will isolate it from *Atratothemis*". Due to limited knowledge on distribution and ecology, *A. reelsi* is at present considered as Data Deficient (Wilson & Reels 2013). Our present locality record of *A. reelsi* in Namdapha Tiger Reserve, India, lies approximately 1170 km (aerial distance) westwards from the previously known nearest locality of Xiaohong Park, southern Guizhou Province, China. The present record indicates, *A. reelsi* may be found in the adjacent country Myanmar, in future.

Acknowledgement

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Fig.1 & 2: *Atratothemis reelsi*, in Namdapha Tiger Reserve, Arunachal Pradesh, India