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The first record of *Pseudagrion sublacteum mortoni* (Odonata: Coenagrionidae) from Iraq

První nález šidélka *Pseudagrion sublacteum mortoni* (Odonata: Coenagrionidae) z Iráku

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Abstract. *Pseudagrion sublacteum mortoni* Schmidt, 1936 is recorded from Iraq for the first time. It was collected from Karbala province.

INTRODUCTION

Pseudagrion Selys, 1876 is the largest genus of the family Coenagrionidae and includes 156 species (Paulson et al. 2023). It is distributed on the African continent, with 71 species (Dijkstra 2023), in Madagascar with 35 species (Dijkstra & Cohen 2021), in Asia with ca. 52 species (Tsuda 2000, Paulson et al. 2023) and in Australia with 6 species (Theischinger & Hawking 2012). Only 9 species of the genus *Pseudagrion* are known from western and central Asia: *P. arabicum* Waterston, 1980, *P. decorum* (Rambur, 1842), *P. hamoni* Fraser, 1955, *P. kersteni* (Gerstäcker, 1869), *P. laidlawi* Fraser, 1922, *P. niloticum* Dumont, 1978, *P. sublacteum* (Karsch, 1893), *P. syriacum* Selys, 1887 and *P. torridum* Selys, 1876 (Boudot et al. 2021).

The dragonfly fauna of Iraq has only been studied sporadically, and was studied in detail for the first time by Morton (1919, 1920a,b, 1921) and later by Sage (1960a,b) and Asahina (1973, 1974); only a few other papers have dealt with the Iraqi odonatofauna (e.g. Fraser 1917, Ris 1928, St. Quentin 1964, Schneider 1984, Carl 1989, Dumont 1991, Porter 2016). Lists of dragonflies from Iraq have been published over time by Sage (1960b), Asahina (1973), Kalkman (2006) and Boudot et al. (2009, 2021). According to Kalkman (2006) and Boudot et al. (2009, 2021), *P. sublacteum* is not part of the Iraqi dragonfly fauna. The checklist of Odonata for Iraq, including *Trithemis arteriosa* (Burmester, 1839) (Ris 1928), *Nesciothemis farinosa* (Jeziorski 2019) and *P. sublacteum* (this paper) comprises 47 species (P. Jeziorski, unpubl.).

MATERIAL AND METHODS

The specimen is mounted on an entomological pin and stored in an entomological box in the collections of the Department of Entomology, National Museum in Prague. The female is in very good condition. The specimen was identified by the author using Dumont (1973, 1991). The author's additional remarks are given in square brackets.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Pseudagrion sublacteum mortoni Schmidt, 1936

Material examined. 1 f* [adult], [Iraq], Shithatha [= Shithātha, Shithāthah, ca. 32°34′16.1″N 43°29′08.2″E], 28.xi.[19]29/, lgt. Slípka/ det. Petr Jeziorski, 2022, coll. National Museum, Prague, Czech Republic.

Pseudagrion sublacteum (Karsch, 1893) is an Afrotropical species (Boudot et al. 2009), which has a wide distribution and is recorded from Africa and Western Asia. Known in Africa from northern South Africa to West and North Africa (Dijkstra 2023), and from the island of Madagascar (Dijkstra & Cohen 2021), and from Saudi Arabia (Waterston 1980), Israel, Jordan, Oman, State of Palestine, Syria and Yemen (Boudot et al. 2021) in the Arabian peninsula. The present article formally extends its distribution range to include Iraq. New species for Iraq. It is not yet reported from Iran (Heidari & Dumont 2002, Schneider et al. 2018, Boudot et al. 2021) or Turkey (Kalkman et al. 2003, Kalkman 2006, Boudot et al. 2021).

While the nominotypical subspecies *Pseudagrion sublacteum sublacteum* (Karsch, 1893) is widespread in Africa, the subspecies *Pseudagrion sublacteum mortoni* Schmidt, 1936 (Ris & Schmidt 1936) is restricted to the Arabian peninsula. The subspecies *P. sublacteum mortoni* does not differ morphologically from the nominotypical subspecies, but only in coloration (Dumont 1973, Clausnitzer 2016).

P. sublacteum occurs in Africa around rivers, streams and possibly large lakes, mostly in open landscapes, but sometimes in open areas in forest. Often with emergent vegetation, probably especially faster sections (Dijkstra 2023). In Yemen and Oman *P. sublacteum* breeds in rivers and temporary flowing wadis which partly dry up during the dry season to form intermittent ponds (Boudot et al. 2021).

A female *P. sublacteum mortoni* was captured in the vicinity of the town of Shithatha in Karbala province. Shithatha locality lies about 50 km west of Karbala city. More information about the locality of the find is not known, but the female of *P. sublacteum mortoni* was probably caught around Al-Razaza Lake. Al-Razaza Lake is the second-largest lake in Iraq, after Al-Thurthar Lake. It is located to the north-west of Karbala city and to the north-east of Al-Anbar city (Dibs 2018). Future research will show if this represents only a historical occurrence, or if the species still occurs in Iraq and has been overlooked.

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SOUHRN

Rod *Pseudagrion* Selys, 1876 je nejpočetnějším rodem čeledi Coenagrionidae a zahrnuje 156 druhů (Paulson et al. 2023). Zástupci rodu jsou rozšíření na africkém kontinentu se 71 druhy (Dijkstra 2023), na Madagaskaru s 35 druhy (Dijkstra & Cohen 2021), v Asii s cca 52 druhy (Tsuda 2000, Paulson et al. 2023) a v Austrálii se 6 druhy (Theischinger & Hawking 2012). Ze západní a střední Asie je známo pouze 9 druhů rodu *Pseudagrion*: *P. arabicum* Waterston, 1980, *P. decorum* (Rambur, 1842), *P. hamoni* Fraser, 1955, *P. kersteni* (Gerstäcker, 1869), *P. laidlawi* Fraser, 1922, *P. niloticum* Dumont, 1978, *P. sublacteum* (Karsch, 1893), *P. syriacum* Selys, 1887 a *P. torridum* Selys, 1876 (Boudot et al. 2021).

Fauna vážek v Iráku byla studována jen sporadicky. Seznamy vážek Iráku postupně publikovali Sage (1960b), Asahina (1973), Kalkman (2006) a Boudot et al. (2009, 2021). Podle Kalkmana (2006) a Boudota et al. (2009, 2021), *P. sublacteum* není součástí fauny vážek Iráku. Seznam druhů vážek Iráku, včetně *Trithemis arteriosa* (Burmester, 1839) (Ris 1928) a *Nesciothemis farinosa* (Jeziorski 2019) a *P. sublacteum* (tento příspěvek) obsahuje 47 druhů (P. Jeziorski, nepubl.).

Zatímco nominotypický poddruh *Pseudagrion sublacteum sublacteum* (Karsch, 1893) je široce rozšířeným druhem v Africe, tak poddruh *Pseudagrion sublacteum mortoni* Schmidt, 1936 (Ris & Schmidt 1936) je rozšířen pouze na Arabském poloostrově. Poddruh *P. sublacteum mortoni* se od nominotypického poddruhu neliší morfologicky, ale pouze zbarvením (Dumont 1973, Clausnitzer 2016).

Samice *P. sublacteum mortoni* byla chycena v roce 1929 v okolí města Shithatha v provincii Karbala a je uložena ve sbírkách Národního muzea v Praze. Lokalita Shithatha leží asi 50 km západně od města Karbala, ale podrobnější informace o lokalitě nálezu nejsou známy. Je pravděpodobné, že byla chycena v okolí jezera Al-Razaza. Budoucí výzkum ukáže, zda se jedná pouze o historický záznam, nebo se tento druh stále vyskytuje v Iráku a byl přehlížen.

Druh *P. sublacteum* je rozšířen v Africe a v západní Asii. Z Arabského poloostrova je znám ze Saudské Arábie (Waterston 1980), Izraele, Jemenu, Jordánska, Ománu, Palestiny, Sýrie (Boudot et al. 2021) a v této práci ho prvně uvádím z Iráku.