

BIBLIOGRAPHIA ODONATA INDICA

A Regional Bibliography of the Damsel- and Dragonflies of India

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*A Biologists Confrerie,
Raj Bhawan, Manik Chowk, Aligarh (U.P.).*

“World’s longest-distance flier

A small dragonfly found in several countries may be the animal world’s most prolific long distance traveller. Scientists at the Rutgers University, Newark (USA) found that population of this dragonfly, called *Pantala flavescens*, in localities as far apart as Texas, Eastern Canada, Japan, Korea, India, and South America, have genetic profiles so similar that there was only one likely explanation: that these dragonflies travel distances that are extraordinarily far away for their small size, breeding with each other population and creating a common world wide gene pool, that would be impossible if they did not intermingle.”

—A recent news report.

Introduction

Among insects, after the butterflies and moths, the dragonflies and damselflies are highly attractive ones. Their body structures and their flight are marvellous to observe. It is reported that they can move their head upto 360°. It is also well-known that their compound eyes are the largest in the insect world and comprise maximum number of cones (ommatidia). Their biology is also peculiar, like few other insect Orders, where immature stage (naiad) is aquatic and the adult stage is fully airborne. The location of male genitalia on the thorax is unique. The copulatory wheel of a mating couple, formed during flight, is worth to watch as a wonder of the nature. And as reported above, they are world’s longest distance flier.

When I lived at Shillong (then capital of Assam) about 50 years back, my several days passed observing and collecting these extraordinary flying insects. A few small publications followed. The interest persists.

Under that attraction, I collected the references of works published on the Indian Odonata. Recently I realised that there is no region-wise bibliography on these insects for use. I gathered whatsoever scattered literature was left with me (after 20 years of retirement from active service). In this exercise, I was greatly helped from two bibliographies contained in Prasad & Varshney (1995) and Sharma (2015). I was also benefitted from the two bibliographies published on

ZSI publications, by Gupta & Gupta (1989) and Alfred et al. (2000). I referred to Ghorpade (1997) on Oriental biogeography and Ghorpade (2014) on the papers published in *Bionotes*. I assume that the first such regional bibliography in India was published by Tyagi et al. (1986).

The three volumes of Fraser (1933, 1934, 1936) on Odonata in the series *Fauna of British India*, which are the bible for this region, however, do not contain references at the end of each volume.

Hence, the present regional bibliography will be useful to future workers. Here, I may make two submissions: firstly that publications having no region mentioned in its title have been generally ignored, thus, this is not a bibliography of all the publications on Odonata of India; and secondly that I have not made extra efforts to collect more references on the neighbouring countries.

This bibliography covers publications from the year 1758 to 2016. I am aware that this bibliography is not exhaustive. If any correction and additions are brought to my notice, they will be incorporated next time. I will also welcome additions if published by others.

The regions classified in this bibliography are neither strictly political state-wise, nor physical terrain-wise, but a broad division based on adjacent geographical entity. I hope that readers can easily find the region/locality of their interest. The sequence is as follows:

I. WESTERN HIMALAYA

(Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Shivaliks).

II. NORTHERN INDIA

(Punjab, Chandigarh, Haryana, Delhi, Uttar Pradesh).

III. EASTERN INDIA

(Bihar, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal except Darjeeling, Sunderban).

IV. NORTH-EASTERN INDIA and EASTERN HIMALAYA

(Sikkim, Darjeeling, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Nagaland, Mizoram, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura).

V. WESTERN INDIA

(Rajasthan, Thar Desert, Gujarat, Maharashtra except Vidarbha, Goa).

VI. CENTRAL INDIA

(Madhya Pradesh, Vidarbha, Chhattisgarh, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh).

VII. SOUTHERN INDIA

(Karnataka, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry).

VIII. ISLANDS

(Andaman Is., Nicobar Is., Lakshadweep Is., Minicoy Is.).

IX. WORKS OF WIDER COVERAGE

(World; All India; More than a Region; Reviews; Museum Colln. etc).

X. NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES

(Bangladesh; Bhutan; Myanmar; Nepal; Pakistan including Pakistan occupied Kashmir; Sri Lanka).

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(To be continued)

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Curd (or yoghurt) which is a milk product, has numerous health benefits.

Apart from the nutritional value, it also has beauty benefits. Consuming curd daily helps keep your system cool, too. Here's why you should make curd a part of your everyday diet:

- It is high in calcium, which helps strengthen bones and teeth. It also helps keep osteoporosis at bay.
- People who are lactose-intolerant can opt for curd as it has pretty much the same benefits as milk.
- Curd keeps the stomach and body cool, so you can

have it when you're suffering from indigestion.

- Curd is rich in lactic acid and helps improve complexion and makes the skin softer. Apply it regularly to keep wrinkles and dark spots at bay.

- It is a good conditioner for your hair and is instrumental in fighting dandruff.

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- Curd doesn't contain high calories, fats or sugar and can be substituted for junk food during those extremely intolerable hunger pangs. It also helps reduce cholesterol level.