

Tijdschrift van de Nederlandse Vereniging voor Libellenstudie en Libellenvereniging Vlaanderen vzw.
www.brachytron.nl - www.odonata.be

De Knijf, G. & T. Termaat, 2010. *Sympetrum meridionale* in Belgium and The Netherlands. Identification, distribution and status in North-western Europe. *Brachytron 13* (1/2): 4-18.

Since 2000 sightings of *Sympetrum meridionale* have become frequent in Belgium and The Netherlands. First records came from Belgium, soon followed by observations in The Netherlands. *S. meridionale* is difficult to identify among other *Sympetrum* species, notable *S. striolatum* and *S. vulgatum* with which it often co-occurs. *S. meridionale* shows a lot of variation in coloration depending on age and sex. In general it can be distinguished by the paucity of black markings. Fully coloured imagines can be recognised by their rather pale coloration. It is advisable that several characters are checked for correct identification. In the 19th century, the species was only observed once in The Netherlands (Friesland). More records are available from Belgium, mostly from Selys, but its former status remains unclear. It is plausible that the species could reproduce then, but only sporadically and not over a longer time period. Records from the 20th century are very scarce. There is one observation in 1906 in a large peat bog area at 700 m altitude in Belgium and one in The Netherlands in 1994. Since 2000, 26 records are available from 15 localities in Belgium, nearly all from the northern part. *S. meridionale* could reproduce successfully at least on three localities: in 2000 in Harchies (Henegouwen), in 2003 in Kallo (port of Antwerp) and in 2006 and 2007 in Ekeren (north of Antwerp). Only two records are available from the Netherlands for the period 2000-2005. Since 2006 the species has been observed at no less than 35 localities. At one locality (Voornes Duin, Zuid-Holland) it was able to reproduce from 2006 to 2008. This recent increase in records has also been noted in several other regions or countries in North-western Europe. For the French regions Picardie and Nord-Pas-de-Calais, no records from before 2000 are available. Since then, several records are known. *S. meridionale* could reproduce en masse at water reservoirs in the region Champagne-Ardenne. No populations are present in the Lorraine region, but the species has been noted at several localities, especially in the valley of the Moselle. The only record for Luxembourg is from 1993 and also originated from this river valley. The last records in the UK already date back from 1948, when the species was noted on the Channel Islands. This might reflect a lack of experience of English odonatologists with the species. In Germany, the species has always been limited to Baden-Württemberg and Bavaria. In more northern regions like North Rhine-Westphalia, the species was first observed in 2000. It has been observed since 2006 in most of the German federal states and reproduction has been recorded at several localities. We suppose that the recent increase of records of *S. meridionale* in Belgium and The Netherlands is primarily due to climate change. As so, it follows the recent increase of several other southern species, like *Crocothemis erythraea*, in Northern Europe. Specimens of *S. meridionale* have been observed in Belgium and The Netherlands at a broad spectrum of habitats, ranging from heathlands to forest edges, peat bogs, dune waters and garden ponds. All localities where reproduction could be observed can be characterised by the presence of relatively small, shallow and very thermophilic water bodies, which partly dry out in summer. Well developed emergent vegetation is present at the shore. Imagines of *S. meridionale* can be observed

in Belgium and The Netherlands from mid June to early September. The species has only one generation per year in Belgium and The Netherlands.

Keywords

Odonata, Anisoptera, Libellulidae, *Sympetrum meridionale*, distribution, habitat preference, reproduction, phenology, migration, climate change, identification, Belgium, The Netherlands

Bouwman, J.H., 2010. Two new populations of *Somatochlora arctica* in Overijssel. *Brachytron 13*(1/2): 26-31.

In 2008 two new populations of *Somatochlora arctica* were discovered in the southeastern part of the province of Overijssel. These populations are the second and third for Overijssel. One population is located at the crossborder nature reserve Witte veen where it can be found in a peat area which is dominated by *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Molinea caerulea* and *Sphagnum*-mosses. The second population is located in both the Overijssel as the Gelderland part of Het Lankeet. During the first visit the actual reproduction site couldn't be found. In late summer 2008 the probable reproduction site was found. This beautiful peat area is dominated by *Narthecium ossifragum*, *Eriophorum angustifolium* and *Sphagnum* species like *S. cuspidatum* en *S. magellanicum*. On the 20th of May 2009 31 exuviae and several juveniles were found here, which shows that a big population is present here. Probably more populations can be found in the next years.

Keywords

Odonata, Corduliidae, *Somatochlora arctica*, The Netherlands, Overijssel, Gelderland, Witte Veen, Lankeet, distribution, ecology

Meutter, F. Van de, 2010. Colonisation and habitat preference of *Crocothemis erythraea* in De Maten (Genk, Belgium). *Brachytron 13*(1/2): 32-40.

This study describes the arrival and colonization of a pond complex situated in North-eastern Belgium by *Crocothemis erythraea*. The presence of *Crocothemis erythraea* was monitored by both samplings for larvae and observations of adults. The prevalence of adults and especially larvae increased exponentially during the course of this study, indicating that a large metapopulation could be established within only a few years. The presence of *Crocothemis erythraea* larvae was positively related to low cover of floating-leaved vegetation and a high cover of submersed filamentous algae and other vegetation. The presence of adults was positively related to water temperature, possibly reflecting a preference for ponds with a high insolation. We found a weak match between ponds where patrolling males were seen and the presence of larvae, possibly indicating that different pond types are selected, although we may have missed larvae occurring at low densities. The colonization of the study area is part of an ongoing northern range shift of this species and exemplifies how quickly a locality may be colonized, and next could serve as a source of dispersers that engage in new colonization events.

Keywords

Odonata, Anisoptera, Libellulidae, *Crocothemis erythraea*, range extension, climate change, larvae, habitat preference

Schrijvershof, P., 2010. *Coenagrion scitulum* near Cadzand-Bad in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, The Netherlands in 2007. *Brachytron* 13(1/2): 41-43.

On June 24, 2007, four males Dainty Bluet (*Coenagrion scitulum*) were recorded in the Kievittepolder, near Cadzand-Bad in Zeeuws-Vlaanderen (Zeeland). This is the second documented record of this species in The Netherlands. The discovery took place after records earlier that year along the northern part of the west coast of Belgium. On July 1st. Others recorded the species at the same locality and at a second site near Cadzand-Bad. Reproductive behaviour was observed and photographed. It is likely that *Coenagrion scitulum* will settle in The Netherlands and will be expanding its range in years to come.

Keywords
Odonata, Zygoptera, Coenagrionidae, *Coenagrion scitulum*, Cadzand-Bad, Zeeuws-Vlaanderen, Zeeland, The Netherlands, discovery, reproduction

Grunsvan, R.H.A. van & T. Termaat, 2010. Record of young *Aeshna mixta* at an unusual location. *Brachytron* 13(1/2):44-46.

A teneral female *Aeshna mixta* was seen on the ferry Pride of Bilbao, 40 kilometers west of the tip of Brittany, France. Age estimation of teneral dragonflies is discussed. This records shows that teneral looking dragonflies might have covered quite a long distance.

Keywords
Odonata, Anisoptera, Aeshnidae, *Aeshna mixta*, migration, teneral, Bay of Biscay, France

Ruiter, E.J., R.M.J.C. Kleukers & T.J. Verstrael, 2010. Cooperation for dragonflies. *Brachytron* 13(1/2): 47-54.

In 2007 the Dutch Society for Dragonfly Studies (NVL) celebrated its 10th anniversary. For ten years the NVL closely cooperated with Dutch Butterfly Conservation (De Vlinderstichting) and European Invertebrate Survey (EIS-NL). This cooperation turned out to be successful and resulted in some remarkable projects. For example: the realization of the atlas on Dutch dragonflies in 2002. This publication appeared as volume 4 in the series Fauna of The Netherlands. Another notable event was the Dutch/German symposium at Kranenburg (Germany) in 2004. Cooperation across borders is one of the main goals of the NVL, because after all dragonflies do not acknowledge borders and conservation is a matter of international importance. At this moment the NVL is involved by the realization of an Atlas on European Dragonflies (Kalkman, in prep.).

On a national scale the NVL is working on more ecological knowledge of specific species. In 2002-2007 the ecology of *Sympecma paedisca* was studied, resulting in a special edition of *Brachytron* which presented the results (*Brachytron* 11 (1), 2007). This publication appeared courtesy of Dutch Butterfly Conservation and EIS-NL.

Hopefully, the successful cooperation between the three organizations will be preceded for at least another ten years.

Keywords
Dutch Society for Dragonfly Studies, European invertebrate Survey-Netherlands, Dutch Butterfly Conservation, cooperation, publications, research, conservation, education, public relations, The Netherlands

Veling, K., 2010. Dragonfly working groups: more than the sum of its parts. *Brachytron* 13 (1/2): 55-64.

At least 38 dragonfly working groups exist in The Netherlands, ranging from working groups studying dragonflies only, to working groups studying other insect groups as well. Group excursions, inventories of nature areas, identification courses and publication of regional distribution atlases are among the many activities organised by working groups. Studying dragonflies together is very stimulating and has several advantages. By working together, mapping the dragonflies of a whole region becomes possible in an effective way. The amount of work can be divided and members can replace each other during vacations. During the process, less experienced dragonfly enthusiasts learn quickly from more experienced recorders. Furthermore, working groups have a more formal position, e.g. when giving advices to nature managers. But the main reason for many people to join a dragonfly working group might well be that watching dragonflies together is just much more fun!

Keywords
The Netherlands, dragonfly study, volunteers, distribution atlas

Kranenbarg, B., T. van Vliet, T. Termaat & R. Ketelaar, 2010. Index of almost 40 years of publications by the Dutch Society for Dragonfly Studies. *Brachytron* 13(1/2): 65-96.

In this index we present an overview of all articles published in magazines and journals of the Dutch Society for Dragonfly Studies and its predecessors. It encompasses the following magazines: Contactbrief NLO, Contactblad NLO, Libellennieuwsbrief, NVL-nieuwsbrief and *Brachytron*. In total 453 articles of 200 authors are presented in this index. A separate index of keywords is published on the website of the Dutch Society for Dragonfly Studies (www.brachytron.nl) and can be downloaded.

Keywords
index, literature, Odonata, The Netherlands, Dutch Society for Dragonfly Studies
