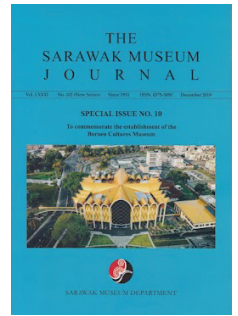




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THE OLD ODONATA (INSECTA) COLLECTION OF THE SARAWAK MUSEUM

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ABSTRACT

The old Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) collection of the Sarawak Museum has been examined and re-identified. An annotated list of the species and specimens present in the collection is given, along with remarks about the locations where they were collected. A total of 378 specimens are present in the collection, 356 of which are from or assumed to be from Sarawak, the remaining 22 specimens are from Sabah (all from Mount Kinabalu). In total, at least 89 species are represented in the collection, however the condition (or sex in some cases) of approximately 15% of the specimens precludes definite identification to species. The collection includes the holotype of *Orchithemis xanthosoma* Laidlaw, 1911, one of the syntypes of *Pseudagrionoptera diotima* Ris, 1912 and paratypes of *Podolestes harrissoni* Lieftinck, 1953 and *Ictinogomphus acutus* (Laidlaw, 1914). Other significant material includes the only specimen of *Euphaea ameeke* van Tol & Norma-Rashid, 1995 known from Limbang Division, the only specimen of *Gynacantha bayadera* Selys, 1891 from Sarawak and a series of *Chlorogomphus* specimens.

Keywords:

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INTRODUCTION

The Sarawak Museum Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) collection is old, mostly collected before the Second World War. The collection is pinned and housed in 11 drawers. Ten of the drawers are ordered taxonomically, while the other drawer contains previously unidentified material. Altogether 378 specimens have survived to the present day, but one of these is composite (composed of parts of different species that have been glued together). The last taxonomic scrutiny of the collection was under the curatorship of Tom Harrisson, when the Dutch Odonatologist M.A. Lieftinck visited the museum in 1950. Lieftinck named a species, *Podolestes harrissoni* Lieftinck, 1953, paratypes of which are in the museum, after Harrisson. It appears that, after Harrisson's time, the condition of the collection deteriorated. Fortunately, under the direction of Dr. Charles Leh Moi Ung the condition of