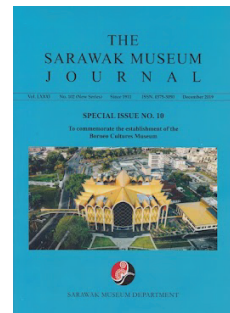




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AN ANNOTATED CHECKLIST OF THE ODONATA (INSECTA) KNOWN FROM SARAWAK WITH RECORDS TO DISTRICT LEVEL

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ABSTRACT

The first checklist of the Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) of the state of Sarawak in Malaysian Borneo is presented. 303 species are included in the list. Records are given to district level. For each species, a reference to the first record from each district in which it occurs is given, except where this paper represents the first published district record, in which case this is indicated. Additionally all references for the species containing original records from Sarawak, or significant discussion of material from or relevant to Sarawak, are given. Known taxonomic issues are discussed in notes. The number of records from each district and division is summarised.

Keywords:

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INTRODUCTION

The Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) is an ancient order of winged insects with aquatic larvae. They occur on every continent apart from Antarctica but are most diverse in the tropical and subtropical regions of the world. All freshwater habitats are occupied by Odonata and a few species even breed in saline waters. Unlike some insect orders, even the least interested member of the general public will have some familiarity with dragonflies, as some common, conspicuous species occur at places such as public and garden ponds or, in the tropics, even at drains and ditches in cities. This paper is a checklist, not an introduction to the order, and I have assumed that most readers will already have at least basic knowledge of these insects. I refer those seeking a more comprehensive introduction to Odonata to one of the many books now available, for instance Albert Orr's *A guide to the dragonflies of Borneo: their identification and biology* (Orr 2003) which is particularly relevant here.

A great variety of Odonata can be found in Sarawak. I list 303 species here. Some of these are the familiar species already mentioned that can be seen at ponds and drains, but many are dependent on forest habitats or other