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DRAGONFLIES**Jongkar Grinang**

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ABSTRACT

Forty-six species representing 36 genera and 11 families of Odonata were identified from limestone habitats in Ban. Thirty-eight taxa were identified down to species level, the rest to genus level only. All of them are new records not only for the Bau Limestone but also for limestone habitats in Sarawak. About 70% of the total species recorded were from four families of the suborder Anisoptera (dragonflies), while seven families of the suborder Zygoptera (damselflies) made up 30%. Libellulidae was the most diverse family, represented by 23 species and accounted for 69% of the total number of individuals collected. Most of the damselflies were collected from the flowing water habitats (e.g. streams) whereas some families of the dragonflies were collected from stagnant water habitats adjacent to the limestone hills such as ex-mines, fish ponds and puddles.

Keywords: Odonata, Bau Limestone

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Abstract. Forty-six species representing 36 genera and 11 families of Odonata were identified from limestone habitats in Bau. Thirty-eight taxa were identified down to species level, the rest to genus level only. All of them are new records not only for the Bau Limestone but also for limestone habitats in Sarawak. About 70% of the total species recorded were from four families of the suborder Anisoptera (dragonflies), while seven families of the suborder Zygoptera (damselflies) made up 30%. Libellulidae was the most diverse family, represented by 23 species and accounted for 69% of the total number of individuals collected. Most of the damselflies were collected from the flowing water habitats (e.g. streams) whereas some families of the dragonflies were collected from stagnant water habitats adjacent to the limestone hills such, as ex-mines, fish ponds and puddles.

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INTRODUCTION

The first records of Sarawak Odonata were published in the 1850s and the bulk of our knowledge comes from publications by Laidlaw, Lieftinck and Kimmins in the first half of 20th century (see Lieftinck, 1954; Abang *et al.*, 1996). About 20 publications on Odonata were published between 1901 and 1995 (see Abang *et al.*, 1996). Recent studies include those of Matsuki and Kitagawa (1993), Kitagawa (1997) and Van Tol and Norma Rashid (1995). However, information on the Odonata in Sarawak is still scanty and the publications are scattered. The new guide book on Bornean Odonata (Orr, 2003) is a good introduction to the subject and its numerous photographs and paintings facilitate identification of many species.

From the 275 recorded Bornean species of Odonata (Orr, 2003), apparently some 220 are known to occur in Sarawak (Orr, *pers. comm.*). Unlike Brunei (see Thompson and Van Tol, 1993; Orr, 2001) no specific