DRAGONFLIES COLLECTED IN THE VICINITY OF
FLORALA, ALABAMA

By MIKE WRIGHT

(Continued from Vol. XXVI, No. 2, page 31)

2. *Lestes disjunctus* Selys. Lake Jackson, May 3, 1942; Natural Bridge Creek, May 16, 1942; Pond A, May 16, 1942; Flemming Creek, May 23, 1942; in Florala and Lockhart during May 1942. This was the most common and widespread lestine found during our collecting. These damselflies were especially abundant in the marshy edges of Lake Jackson. They managed to conceal themselves so well in the short grass and weeds that the collector had to beat the grass with the net to flush them. As noted above, several individuals were taken in the heart of Florala, some distance from Lake Jackson.

3. *Lestes rectangularis* Say. Pond A, May 16, 1942. This pond, as described previously, was an open woodland pond which had undergone considerable drying up. This had concentrated the animals therein. Nymphs of this species were taken by the dozens in each dip, and tenars were seen by the hundreds perching in the waist-high grass and weeds which encircled the pond. As the collector walked through the grass hundreds of tenars of *L. rectangularis* were flushed before him. Some were so newly emerged that after flying a few feet they would fall helpless to the ground. Several clung to the clothes of the collector, too weak to escape. We were unable to find a single mature individual, although considerable time was spent in the vicinity of Pond A.

4. *Lestes vigilax* Hagen. Pond B, May 23, 1942. This pond was surrounded by a dense thicket of trees and shrubs, in which all our specimens of *L. vigilax* were taken. Unlike the other two species of *Lestes* encountered in the Florala area, *L. vigilax* seemed to prefer a heavily shaded area. Individuals are hard to find in such places and must be flushed by beating the vegetation with a stick while keeping the net ready for a swift swing. The presence of thorn bushes and briars did not better the condition of either the net or the collector. In our collections of *L. vigilax* elsewhere they have been taken in similar habitats.

5. *Argia bipunctulata* (Hagen). Svea, May 19, 15, and 20, 1942; Flemming Creek, May 23, 1942. This was the most common and widespread *Argia* found during these collections. In several instances, individuals were taken at considerable distances from water. In the vicinity of Flemming Creek the greater number of individuals were seen in the open fields bordering the creek or in the marshy area bordering the highway. Relatively few were observed along the creek itself.

6. *Argia fumipennis* (Burmeister). Pond Creek, May 3, 1942; Lake Jackson, May 3, 1942; Flemming Creek, May 23, 1942. A not uncommon species in the areas listed. Along the road that encircles Lake Jackson many individuals were seen patrolling the edge of the road and darting back and forth across the road.
7. *Argia tibialis* (Rambur). Pond Creek, May 3, 1942. Only two specimens, both males, were taken during these collections. Further collection, especially later in the summer, would undoubtedly produce greater numbers of this species.

8. *Nehalennia integricolor* Calvert. Taken only at Pond B on May 23, 1942. This species was common at this pond, being found both in the heavily shaded area and in the open.

9. *Teleallagma daeckii* (Calvert). Taken only at Pond B on May 23, 1942. Two males and one female (one pair in copula) were caught and several others were seen but were not taken because of the briars. This was our first encounter with *T. daeckii* and we hope for more. It is a beautiful and stately insect in flight.


11. *Enallagma weeva* Byers. A single male was taken at Pond Creek on May 23, 1942. Further collection in the Florala area, especially later in the season, will undoubtedly show this species to be much more abundant and widespread. Further collecting should also disclose other species of *Enallagma* in the area.

12. *Ischnura posita* (Hagen). Taken throughout the area and even invading the towns. Never really abundant but always present, the greatest number being seen around Lake Jackson.


14. *Progomphus obscurus* (Rambur). Natural Bridge Creek (2 males), May 16, 1942; Pond Creek (1 male), May 23, 1942. This was the only gomphine seen during our collections. We were surprised to find no members of the genus *Gomphus*, as all the streams examined appeared to be excellent habitats for this group. Further collections will probably produce additional species.


16. *Nannothemis bella* (Uhler). Flemming Creek, May 23, 1942. Flemming Creek at this point consists of a meandering stream, with several small falls, heavily shaded by trees along its course and bordered by a marshy area abounding in pitcher plants. Where it meets the highway there is a large marshy area traversed by a drainage ditch which empties into the creek. Considerable numbers of *N. bella* were found in the marshy area bordering the ditch and along the ditch itself. None were found along the creek or in the bordering marshes. *N. bella* seemed limited to within a few yards of the water, none being taken more than several
feet away. They flew up and down the ditch and perched on the waterside and emergent vegetation.

17. *Calithemis elisa* (Hagen). Only one specimen, a male, of this species was taken during this study, and that from Pond A on May 16, 1942.

18. *Libellula auripennis* Burmeister. Pond Creek, May 3 and 23, 1942; Svea, May 15, 1942; Flemming Creek, May 23, 1942; in Floral and Lockhart, May 1942; Pond B, May 23, 1942. This was a widespread but uncommon species. Along the Gulf coast it is the most abundant member of the genus and in many places is the dominant species of the area. Around Floral, however, it has lost out to *L. semifasciata*.

19. *Libellula semifasciata* Burmeister. Found throughout the locale. A very common species but preferring the open areas. Around Lake Jackson numbers were taken while perching on canes. They were nervous and would take flight at the slightest movement of the collector. Frequently, after a short circular flight, they would return to the same perch or to a cane close by. Many specimens were obtained by waiting for the dragonfly at the perch it had just vacated.

20 and 21. *Libellula vibrans* Fabricius and *L. incesta* Hagen. Pond A, May 16, 1942; Pond B, May 23, 1942. These are shade-loving species. A few individuals of each were taken in the wooded areas around the two ponds.

22. *Libellula fluvida* Rambur. Two males were taken at Flemming Creek on May 23, 1942.

23. *Plathemis lydia* (Drury). Lake Jackson, April 29 and May 3, 1942. This is a muddy-pond breeder and a few adults were seen about the swampy areas bordering Lake Jackson. This species is undoubtedly more abundant and widespread than is here indicated.

24. *Pachydiplax longipennis* (Burmeister). Found throughout the area, never reaching the abundance noted along the Gulf coast.

25. *Erythromis simplicicollis* (Say). Taken throughout the area in company with *P. longipennis*. This species also proved to be an uncommon form.

26. *Erythrodiplax connata minuscula* (Rambur). Three males and two females of this species were taken along the edge of Pond B on May 23, 1942.

27. *Sympectrum ambiguum* (Rambur). A single teneral female was collected at Lake Jackson on May 3, 1942. This is an interesting record as the species was found by the writer in his study of Central Gulf Coast Odonata to be a shade-loving form that appeared in late summer and lasted until the first frost of winter. All of the species in the genus *Sympectrum* are recorded as autumnal dragonflies. The writer wishes to thank Mrs. Leonora K. Floyd, Chicago Academy of Sciences, for help in determining this specimen.

28. *Tramea carolina* (Linnacus). A not uncommon species found throughout the area.