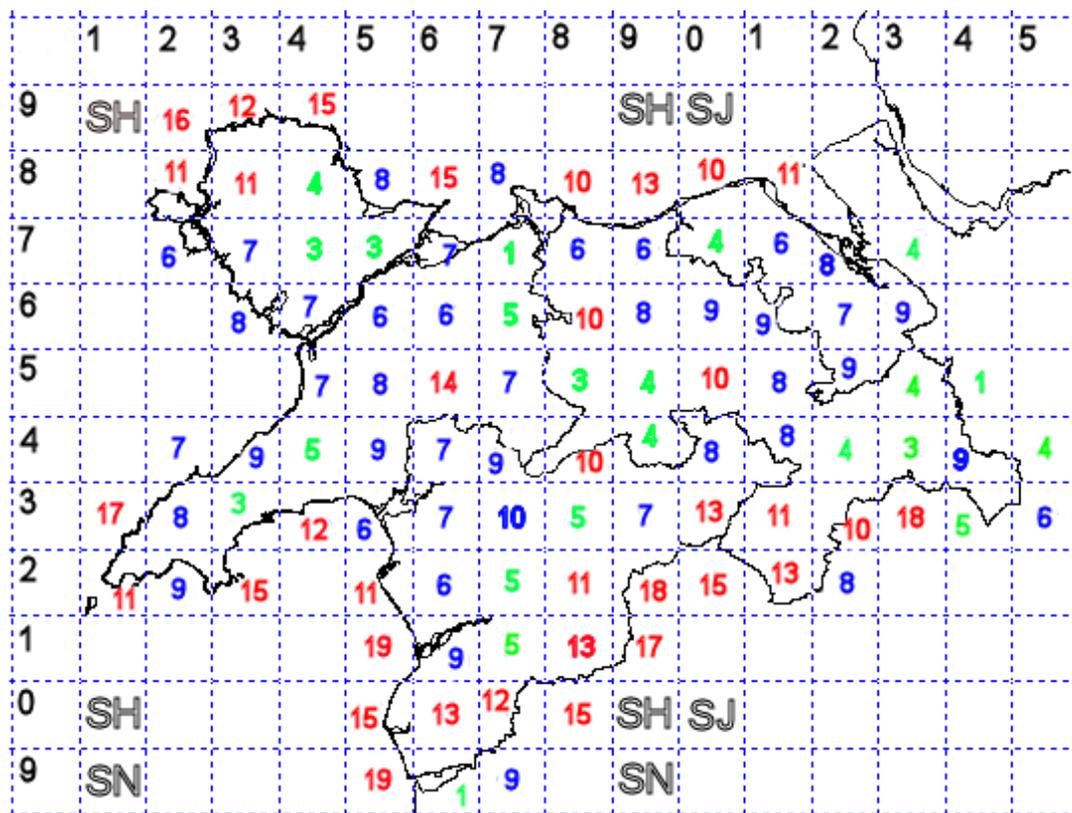


Hi all,



Final year for Atlas recording

2012 is the last year to send in records that will contribute to the proposed British and Irish Dragonfly Society British Atlas (BDS) scheduled to be published next year. So this is a special plea to get out to the poorly recorded areas and pick off some of the ‘missing’ species before it is too late. Although the new atlas will only record presence or absence of species at the 10 km square scale all the records need to be sent in with 6 or 8 figure grid references, along with breeding information if possible, as it is hoped to publish an account of North Wales dragonflies at a more detailed scale in the future. This up-to-date map showing how many species are still ‘missing’ from each 10 km square should help you locate the poorest recorded squares. They are the ones with the highest numbers in red. As you can see there is potential anywhere for new species records. The attached chart shows you which species are still not recorded, though expected to be present, from each square.



New records and the importance of sending in photographs

Photographs are a marvellous way to send in records. As an example, on the 6th September last year Brian Burnett sent me several photos of odonates to identify that had been taken over several years. Of these three were new records for 10 km squares: a male *Aeshna juncea* (Moorland or Common Hawker) he photographed at Llyn Vyrnwy on the 1st Augusts 2007 was a first for SH92 since before 2000; a male

Cordulegaster boltonii (Common Goldenring) seen at Llandegla on the 30th Jun 2010 was the first ever for SJ25; photos of *Coenagrion puella* (Azure Bluet) from two other localities on SH25 were the first time the species had been recorded from there since before 2000. Thus, a few more gaps in the records are removed!

In addition, Andrew Graham sent me his records in January. His 2nd June 2011 record of *Libellula quadrimaculata* (Four-spotted Chaser) from Tyfos is a new one for SJ03 10 km square.



Male *Aeshna mixta* (the so-called Migrant Hawker), 15th August 2011, Deeside Nature Reserve. Photo Andrew Graham. The adult of this resident species should be found late in the flying season right across North Wales but it has not been recorded from many 10 km squares. It is smaller than the similar *Aeshna juncea* (Common or Moorland Hawker) and can be distinguished from it by the short yellow antehumeral stripes on top of the thorax, the brown rather than yellow costae or leading veins of the wings, and the marked yellow 'tack' mark in front of the broad blue band of the abdomen.

Datasets

For the first time the relatively few Odonata records that have been sent directly to Cofnod (the North Wales Local Record Centre) and subsequently verified by me were sent to the NBN Gateway via Steve Prentice of BDS. These records of 'Cofnod North Wales Odonata' then became available for me to use in the distribution mapping along with the existing the 'North Wales Dragonflies' and 'CCW Dragonflies' datasets and several other small datasets. I would encourage you to send Odonata records

directly to me as Cofnod get all the records in due course anyway. Please note my new e-mail address below.

Acknowledgements

I wish to express my gratitude to the following people who have sent in records or photographs during 2011 which have gone into the 'North Wales Dragonflies' dataset. Though individual contributions range from one or two sightings to more extensive spreadsheets the list is in no particular order.

Rhys Jones, Andy R Williams, John Bratton, Debbie Evans, Dick Eastwood, Bill and Mandi Taylor, Duncan Brown, Sue Loose, John Lawton Roberts, Kelvin Jones, Simon Hughes, Steve Stansfield, Alan T Williams, Peter Heywood, Paul Triggs, Ian Hawkins, Andrew and Janet Graham, Geoff and Kate Gibbs, Linda M Jones, Tony Pope, Mike Howe, Adrian Fowles, Stephen and Anne Coker, Kate Surry, Anna Williams, Phil Corley, Michael Foley, Richard Holland, Jonny Hulson, Anne Brenchley, Les Starling, Rob Strachan, Bob Dennison, Ian Sims, Mandy Marsh, Richard and Iola Vanstone, Chris Lusted, Steve Holmes and Marion Barlow, James Robertson, Sarah Money, Martin Bailey, Joan Daniels, Rod Dunn, Brenda Jones, Peter Kennerley, Alun Williams, Paula Williams, Claire Install, Anne Butler, Chris Wynne, Richard Gallon, Terry and Julia Wood, Ian M Spence, Mike Klymko, Emma Broad, Richard and Sheila Perry, John Smith, Ivor Rees, Simon Hugheston-Roberts, Andy Glencross, Jan Miller, Ian Brodie, Julian Hughes, Mark Sheridan & Jill Tattershall, Ben Porter, Brian Burnett, Andrew Spottiswood, Eddie Urbanski, Lizzie Hudson.

A few tropical metallic dragonflies

Just to get you thinking of the beauty of adult dragonflies in this generally cold grey spell, here are a few iridescent tropical species. Members of the perching libellulid genus *Rhyothemis* occur across the tropical regions of the Old World. They are amongst the most beautiful of dragonflies as their broad wings are adorned with a dazzling array of bright metallic colours. Their colloquial name 'flutterer' derives from the slow, flapping and gliding character of flight which is reminiscent of the flutter of butterflies.



Rhyothemis variegata female, January 2005, Kerala. Photo A. Brandon.



Rhyothemis semihyalina female, December 2011, The Gambia. Photo A. Brandon



Rhyothemis triangularis male, October 2011, Kerala. Photo A. Brandon.

Neurobasis chinensis is related to our demoiselles and is widespread and not uncommon along some mountainous torrents in tropical Asia. The males perch on rocks and flash vividly coloured hindwings to attract females. Its forewings are transparent.



Neurobasis chinensis male, November 2008, Kerala. Photo A. Brandon

In the same superfamily are another group of Old World river damsels known as Jewels. These typically have coloured panels in their wings.



Rhinocypha bisignata male, January 2005 Kerala. Photo A. Brandon

If you want to see more tropical adult dragonflies and damselflies take a look at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/45644411@N03/>

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