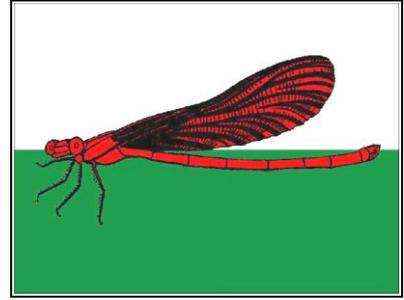


Y Fursen

North Wales
Dragonfly
Newsletter
No. 85

17th May 2016



Odonata news and events from across the vice counties of
Anglesey, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire

Hi all,



Female Red-veined Darter found on Bardsey

Steve Stansfield, warden of the Bardsey Bird & Field Observatory on Bardsey, sent me three photos to confirm identification of a Red-veined Darter taken on Bardsey [SH1198221435] on the 11th May. The pterostigma, eye colour, black line over the frons, body pattern and coloration, and bold pale line down the legs all clearly fit the female of the species.



Female *Sympetrum fonscolombii* on Bardsey, 11 May 2016. Photo Steve Stansfield.

As June is the typical month for this migrant species to turn up in North Wales I checked

yesterday with Adrian Parr, the BDS Migrants Officer, to see if he thought this early adult might have bred locally. This is his reply about the recent few recent sightings of this migratory species:

‘My guess is that the Bardsey *S. fonscolombii* was a migrant individual - it arrived under very typical immigration conditions (c.f. the Blyth's Pipit that turned up the same day), and the photo shows it's already quite mature. I've just had details of another sighting on the Isle of Wight [in addition to an earlier one at the Bonchurch revetment (east of Ventnor) on the 13th May], and small numbers continue to turn up in The Netherlands/Belgium. Again, most of these are already very mature.

I hope this helps a little. Some progress is being made in tracking the likely origins of migrant species, but unfortunately there's still some way to go!’

Another good day at Llyn Tecwyn Isaf

As you are no doubt aware, lovely Llyn Tecwyn Isaf in Merionethshire [SH629370] is one of our very top sites for Odonata in North Wales, though it still doesn't have official protection. As well as being our only known site for *Cordulia aenea* (Downy Emerald), it is home to rarities *Brachytron pretense* (Hairy Hawker) and *Ceriagrion tenellum* (Small Red Damsel) and a host of other species. Radnorshire's Dick Eastwood pays regular visits to the lake as he comes up every other week to do the chores for his mum in the Portmadoc area – she will be 104 on June 7th! This is his log for the 15th May – it's good to know the Downy is still doing well at the lake! Well done Dick and well done your mum as well.

‘Just returned from a trip to North Wales and a very interesting couple of visits to Llyn Tecwyn Isaf yesterday. Arrived around 8:40am and decided to check out the bank to the left of the only car parking spaces. The first tree I checked – a birch? standing just by the water had a large horizontal branch stretching out into the lake [see photo] and crawling along was a Downy Emerald larva. I watched as this wandered aimlessly around and then went off to inspect another area hoping to find it had begun to emerge when I returned. Fifteen minutes later I was back and could not find the rascal anywhere. Then, I checked the main tree trunk and there was not one but two of them crawling upwards! I assume the first returned to the water as it was not going upward? I watched and photo'd until both had got 10 feet up the trunk and went off to do more searching. When I returned neither was to be seen so I guess they just carried on climbing? This behavior would certainly explain how difficult it is to find evidence?’



Dick Eastwood



Tree used by emergent *Cordulia aenea* larvae, Llyn Tecwyn Isaf,
15th May 2016. Photo Dick Eastwood.



Tree-climbing *Cordulia aenea* larva, Llyn Tecwyn Isaf,
15th May 2016. Photo Dick Eastwood.

My search did find one Downy Emerald exuvia around 12" above the water level on another stubby bush growing in the lake [see photo].



Spidery *Cordulia aenea* exuvia, Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, 15 May 2016. Photo Dick Eastwood.

I went back mid afternoon for another look and criss-crossed the meadow just to the right of the cattle grid. Seven Downy Emeralds took flight and landed in the trees nearby. Managed to photo the last of these [see photo]!



Immature adult male *Cordulia aenea*, Llyn Tecwyn Isaf,
15th May 2016. Photo Dick Eastwood.

A very healthy population of Large Reds – a small number of which were flying in tandem and ovipositing. An even healthier population of Blue-tailed Damselflies.’

A global message from KD

On the 9th May I received the following message from Klaas-Douwe 'KD' B. Dijkstra, the African Odonata expert.

‘Yesterday was Sir David Attenborough's 90th birthday. I was honoured to (dragon-) fly the flag for taxonomy during the celebrations and speak for natural history in an associated article in the journal Nature titled "Restore our sense of species".

In the comment I argue that natural history and taxonomy, which I suggest to unite under a single name, are critical to provide a moral counterweight to Earth's runaway exploitation: intact biodiversity is the embodiment of sustainability. Expanding and sharing our consciousness of other species, which can be said to be medieval now, is one of the greatest challenges of our time.

The [Nature](#) paper is open access; the revision of Acisoma dragonflies with the description of *A. attenboroughi* sp. nov. is in [Zootaxa](#) (download this week [here](#)). Last night I presented Sir David with his dragonfly species in the BBC One "[Attenborough at 90](#)" (two minute video) interview.

I hope we can carry the message further, so please share this as widely as you wish!’



KD, Madagascar in January when he found five new species of Odonata. Photo A. Brandon.



A new but common Malagasy species *Acisoma attenboroughi*,
10th January 2016. Photo A. Brandon.



Libellula quadrimaculata, Trwyn Cilan, Mynydd Cilan, Lleyn, 12 May 2016. Photo Gareth Jones.

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