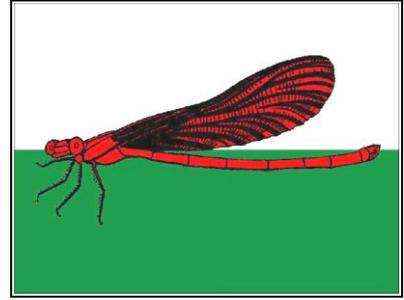


Y Fursen

North Wales  
Dragonfly  
Newsletter  
No. 86

6<sup>th</sup> June 2016



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

Hi all,



### Clubtails emerge from the Dee

Steve Palin e-mailed me on the 17<sup>th</sup> May to announce that our only gomphid *Gomphus vulgatissimus* (Common Clubtail) had started to emerge from the Dee. With Sue Loose and Simon Mills he found immature individuals in the morning along the riverbank at Holt. This followed searches the week before so he was fairly confident this was their first day of emergence. There were 6 males, 1 female and 3 undetermined as they flew off before inspection.



Young *Gomphus vulgatissimus* male, River Dee at Holt, 17<sup>th</sup> May 2016. Photo Steve Palin.

### More photos of the May Bardsey Red-veined Darter

Steve Stansfield has sent me better photos of the female *Sympetrum fonscolombii* that turned up on Bardsey on the 11<sup>th</sup> May.



Female *Sympetrum fonscolombii* on Bardsey, 11 May 2016. Photo Steve Stansfield. Note the distinct pale line down legs and the bicolored eyes, brown above and blue below.



Female *Sympetrum fonscolombii* on Bardsey, 11 May 2016. Photo Steve Stansfield. Note the thin black line on top of the frons (face) extends down the sides and the pale pterostigmata have a thick black border.

### Variable Damsels and Small Bluetails doing well at RSPB Malltraeth

Adrian Fowles, formerly of NRW, did a comprehensive survey of the ditch network at RSPB Malltraeth in Anglesey last year to monitor *Coenagrion pulchellum* (Variable Damsel) for RSPB Cymru (Report No. AF-2015-01). Though rarely abundant, the species was widely distributed across the site. Information was also gathered on the occurrence of

the *Ischnura pumilio* (Small Bluetail), which was widespread (recorded from eight compartments) in low numbers on open muddy scrapes in the wader fields.

### **Invertebrates are fighting back!**

I've used these pages several times to report pesky House Sparrows and other birds taking vulnerable emergent damselfly and dragonflies around my Rowen garden pond so this is splendidly good news from North America! Imagine Darrell Ferriss's surprise when he came across the club-tail *Hagenius brevistylus* attempting to eat a young Ruby-throated Hummingbird. Darrell photographed the incident while hunting and fishing at Ardbeg, near Parry Sound, Ontario, Canada. Some comments from a contact of Darrell's were reported by Chris Hill in the latest online odonata list (odonata-l@listhost.ups.edu). 'He managed to pick up the pair and had great difficulty in getting the dragonfly to let go of the hummingbird, he gently separated the legs from the bird but the dragonfly was not for letting go with his mouth (or whatever dragonflies have). Once he finally got them separated the dragonfly flew away instantly however the hummingbird took a few minutes to get over the shock but did fly off in the end. The picture and story is absolutely true and in no way 'photo-shopped'.



*Hagenius brevistylus* attempting to eat a young Ruby-throated Hummingbird.  
Photo Daryll Ferriss

The Dragonhunter or Black Clubtail (*Hagenius brevistylus*) is the biggest clubtail in North America and is aptly named, being fearless and specialised in feeding on dragonflies and other large insects, commonly even taking aeshnids as large as itself. Others reported on odonata-l seeing a White-barred Piculet (*Picumnus cirratus*) captured by a species of *Nephila* spider 30 years ago (from Adolfo) and a recollection of an *Anax junius* (Green Darner) capturing a hummingbird about 7 years ago. 'The pair fell to the viewing platform, someone photographed it and then released the hummingbird. I think this was reported on odonata-l. Photos were promised, but never appeared in any follow

up ...' (from Richard Rowe).



Could these *Pantala* be attacking the Pigmy Cormorants? Tamil Nadu, India 2011. Photo A. Brandon



Female *Cordulia aenea*, Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, 31 May 16. Photo Dylan Edwards.

## Allan

Dr Allan Brandon  
North Wales Dragonfly Recorder  
Bryn Heilyn, Rowen, Conwy LL32 8YT.