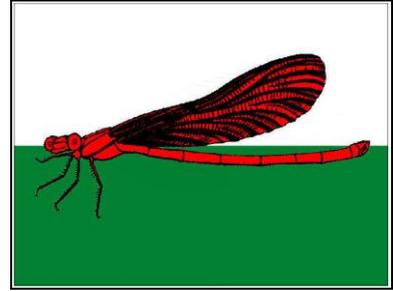


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North Wales
Dragonfly
Newsletter
No. 99

23rd February 2019



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



Hi all,

An invasion of Vagrant Emperor is now well underway

Following on from John Bratton's sighting of a suspected *Anax ephippiger* (Vagrant Emperor) on the north coast of Anglesey on the 15th February (see Newsletter No. 98) a female made landfall in Cornwall and was photographed by Luke Stoppard along the northern coast near St Ives on the 17th:

<https://twitter.com/LukeStoppard/status/1097212757122916359>.



Female *Anax ephippiger* near St Ives, Cornwall, 17th February, 2019. Photo Luke Stoppard.

Adrian Parr tells me that an unidentified dragonfly, likely to be this species as no other is on the wing so early, was seen on the Isle of Man a few days ago. Then, much closer to home, a male was observed yesterday (22nd February) by Adam Long flying at Beach Road [c. SH316280], Abersoch, Llyn Peninsula. When it landed he managed to get some fine photos. The dragonfly was still perched there this morning:
https://twitter.com/adam_jb_long/status/1098991709348864002.



Lateral view of male *Anax ephippiger*, Abersoch, Llyn, 22nd February 2019. Photo Adam Long.



Dorsal view of male *Anax ephippiger*, Abersoch, Llyn, 22nd February 2019. Photo Adam Long.
Note the basal segments of the abdomen are marked with blue dorsally in the male.

So, if you've nothing better to do in the next few days, take a walk (with camera of course) along the coast of North Wales and you might be rewarded with a sighting of this strong-flying, migratory African and Asian species. The strong, warm, southerly air flow towards the British Isles is likely to continue for a few days and more individuals will probably make landfall here on our south-facing coasts. On reaching the north-facing coasts they seem to spend time feeding up before heading off across the Irish Sea to goodness knows where. This is the only species recorded in Iceland!

Please remember that all back copies of this newsletter can be found on the Cofnod website home page by clicking 'View all news' box and searching 'dragonfly' in 'Search news'.

Allan

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