

Far North Queensland 2017

'Down under' – the first Odonatours recce trip!

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Summary

This informal look at the odonates of Far North Queensland was a great introduction to the fauna of the fascinating country of Australia. We managed 83 species, all bar two photographed, in a relatively small area and we are all looking forward to getting back to tackle new regions of the country sometime soon.

Acknowledgements

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Daily diary

22/4 Crystal Cascades

After arriving, getting the car, buying camping gear and finding a suitable campsite, Erland and Phil had just an hour in the field at nearby Crystal Cascades. It was overcast and raining slightly but with some sunny spells and despite the late hour we started to see our first odonates, which quickly dispelled the possibility that April was going to be a bad time of year. The first odo was the incredible tropical rockmaster! A much-wanted family, let alone species and a great way to kick off the trip. Also here were our first *Orthetrum villosovitattum*, *Pseudagrion ignifer* and *Nannophlebia eludens*. The campsite produced our first Aussie birds including some fine bush thick-knees.

23/4 Cairns to Undara

We packed up our tents in the dark and headed for the airport to pick up the other two. Job done we headed for more camping equipment before driving up and away from the awful weather down on the coast by going well inland to Undara. Magnus suffered on the windy Gillies Range road (jetlag or bad airline food?) and quickly earned the nickname 'Vombat'... The weather was a bit unsettled at Undara too but we got the better deal and a short walk down towards the swamp was excellent. The swamp had plenty of potential and we voted for a 'soft' start to the trip and a return for a full day in the morning. Our short afternoon session produced some great odonates including our first *Hemianax*, *Diplacodes bipunctata*, *Nannodiplax*, *Orthetrum caledonicum*, *Lestes concinnus*, *Ischnura pruinescens* and *heterosticta* and *Agriocnemis argentea*. Western grey kangaroos, whiptail wallabies, pale-headed rosellas and squatter pigeons also entertained at close range. The night sky was breathtaking.

24/4 Undara

A full day working the swamp in two sessions meant a lot of leg-work but was very enjoyable. A steady trickle of new odonates kept us entertained throughout. Our first *Austrolestes* (*leda* and *insularis*) were found by Erland. Billabongflies (*Austroagrion*) appeared too. The first graphic flutterer was a big hit and the red-and-blue damsels were just sublime but all too fleeting as they buzzed past just offshore. Tiny *Nannodiplax* were just splendid.

Phil and Magnus bagged the first *Crocothemis nigrifrons* on the quick way back to lunch down the main road. After lunch we re-checked a boggy seepage on the track and found our only *Orthetrum migratum* of the tour. It was a great day in the field and even as we turned to leave we found our first *Diplacodes nebulosa*.

25/4 out to Cumberland Dam and back

Today we drove west to Cumberland dam passing into the much drier interior region of Queensland. En route two Australian bustards. We stopped at the big river but failed to turn-up anything in a quick look, although a gomphid was probably flying here. We cracked on to the dam and had a good two-hour session here with a few new odonates for our lists including the *Ictinogomphus*, *Brachydiplax denticauda*, *Macrodiplax cora*, our first of many *Pseudagrion microcephalum* and lots of graphic flutterers and our first blue male *Crocothemis*. Birds entertained but included nothing of real note.

After filling the car and having a quick lunch in Georgetown we headed down the road to check a couple of the tasty looking rivers we had passed in the morning. These produced

some good damselflies that we had to puzzle out later. One at least was *Austrosticta frater*. The last creek was excellent and gave us our first good look at *Pseudagrion aureofrons* (courtesy of Roy) and also *Pseudagrion ignifer* and perhaps our first *jedda* too. Amazingly our only freshwater crocodile was in one of these creeks.

26/4 travelling to Paluma

We spent the day travelling. Stopping at Charters Towers for a taste of Australiana and a shopping session. The Burdekin River was not much good but as we got close to Townsville we stopped at a small roadside pond for a bit of odo-action that included our only *Anax gibbulosus*. A satnav malfunction meant we eventually camped low down at Big Crystal Creek...

27/4 Big Crystal Creek and Little Crystal Creek, Paluma road

A good day in the field with plenty of damsels and our first rainforest work. First up was a look around the campsite (*Neurothemis stigmatizans*), the river here offering up little but the darker streams and swampy bits off it in the forest produced some interesting new things; *Hemicordulia australiae*, *Ceriagrion aeruginosum*, *Argiocnemis rubescens* and our first *Nososticta coelestina*.

Higher up we searched a side stream near the Little Crystal Creek for *Neosticta silvarum* and *Chorismagrion risi*. The main river had excellent *Diphlebia*, *Nannophlebia eludens* and *Nososticta solitaria*. Working small, steep and rocky creeks off the Paluma road produced female *Synlestes tropicus* and the totally incredible male *Episynlestes cristatus*.

Lower down on Little Crystal Creek we were inundated with *Nososticta coelestina* and even a few *Pseudagrion ignifer*, *Ceriagrion* and *Nososticta solitaria*. We camped at Ingham, checking the start of the wetland trail at Tyto before dark, it looked good.

28/4 Tyto Wetlands, Jourama Falls and on to Cardwell

Early morning saw us at the gates to Tyto and in amongst the *Agriocnemis*, Roy's diligence confirming *pygmaea* and *dobsoni*. Cotton pygmy goose was an Australian tick for Phil! We walked in checking through the libellulids and Coenagrionids present but things did not get really exciting until the sun started to beat down. First up was our first *Lathrecista*, then a big pond on the way back to the car produced a run of new libellulids with *Hydrobasileus*, *Rhyothemis princeps* and *phyllis* and both *Aethriamantas*. Throughout we became acquainted with the lovely female of *Ischnura pruinescens*.

After lunch we headed to nearby Jourama Falls, a mosquito-infested hell-hole with some good odonates including our first *Agrionoptera insignis*. We did not last long though and thoughts of camping here were quickly dispelled in favour of moving north to Cardwell and it's chip shop.

29/4 Kinaree Range Rd to South Mission Beach

We had our first real bad luck with the weather this morning with a very bizarre cold start to the day despite the sun shining down, even at midday it had not hit 20 degrees! As a result the various superb-looking creeks on the Kinaree Range Rd yielded very little. Magnus got lucky with a brief *Austroaeschna weiskei* and a few *Diphlebia* and *Nannophlebia* flew in the afternoon... Disappointing. We ended the day at South Mission Beach where (as if by magic) an adult cassowary and two halflings greeted us at our boisterous campsite!

30/4 Wheatley Rd and Lacey Creek, Mission Beach

Temperatures returned to normality this morning and our first stop was the pond we reced the night before on Wheatley road. This produced a nice selection of pond species but nothing new (at least that was what we thought but examination of photos from here revealed our first undetected *Brachydiplax duivenbodei*...). We spent the rest of the day at Lacey Creek chasing our first gomphids, finding our first *Aciagrion* and enjoying the lowland rainforest. The gomphids were not easy and at least two species were involved... In the evening we relocated to nearby Innisfail.

1/5 Eubenangee Swamp and Babinda Boulders

Rain overnight and more of the same during the morning but we managed a reasonable session at Eubenangee Swamp nevertheless. Plenty of swampy coenagrionids and libellulids.

We found our second *Aciagrion* and more *princeps* were flying here in small numbers. The small basking estuarine crocodile put us off a thorough examination of the site though...

A pre-lunch quick look at the Babinda Boulders swimming spot (on Labour Day) produced plenty of people but we were hit by two sharp showers that meant only *Diphlebia* could be found.

After lunch we worked some of the sidestreams near Babinda picking up *Tetrathemis* and our first *Oristicta* under dense canopy in a slow flowing swampy bit.

2/5 Yungaburra and Curtain Fig NP

We spent the bulk of the day exploring the riverside habitat at Peterson's Creek in Yungaburra. Really enjoyable day, which started at dawn. By 0630 we had great views of 1-2 platypus and moved on to odos. There was a new damsel (*Rhadinosticta simplex*) and searching spider's webs produced tropical shutwing (a species we later found congregating on dead trees in the late afternoon sun). Another more obliging *Hemicordulia australiae* was nice. At dusk Magnus bagged our first *Zyxomma (elgneri)*. Later we checked out the Curtain Fig, returning at night for spotlight possum action.

3/5 Malanda Falls, Narandra Tea Estate, Mount Hypipamee and Lake Barrine
Malanda Falls had some great habitat at the start of the day and produced our second site for the weird *Chorismagrion*, as well as the high-flying mystery species in the canopy (eventually identified as *Anaciaeschna jaspidea!*).

After a tip-off we headed to Narandra Tea Estate to bag an easy female Lumholz's tree-kangaroo, complete with arboreal joey in the pouch. On the way a quick stop at a nearby creek produced a great driveby Magnus gomphid (*Austrogomphus amphiclitus*).

Mount Hypipamee NP produced an excellent side-stream that had another single male *Chorismagrion* and a wonderful patrolling *Austroaeschna weiskei*. The latter was to become fairly common but impossible to photograph. Searching down to Dinner Falls added nothing new.

Last stop of the day was Lake Barrine where we bumped straight into the orange *Nososticta solida*, what a beauty. A short walk on the lake circuit produced two huge kauri trees and great views of a couple of musky kangaroo-rats.

4/5 Mareeba Wetlands

Today we spent a long session at the nearby Mareeba wetlands. Good-looking artificial lakes set in dry eucalypt forest. Surprisingly very few birds during the session though but we did get a pair of black swan. The odonates were great however, the boat dock produced a huge, tiny surprise with our first and only *Austrocnemis maccullochi* (a slight range extension perhaps?). Other odes here included lots of *Diplacodes nebulosa*, *Rhodothemis*, more *princeps* and we tried really hard for the *Nannophya* in seemingly ideal habitat. Magnus gripped us with a teneral *Anaciaeschna jaspidea*. Driving out we stopped at great-looking habitat and Phil bagged an adult *Anaciaeschna jaspidea* (no photo) hunting low through wet grassland. Superb! Later on we stopped again by a good-looking creek for our first *Hemicordulia intermedia*.

5/5 Henrietta Creek, Tarzali Lakes, Archers Creek and Bromsfield Swamp

Our first uninspiring day weather-wise with light rain overnight and continuing through the morning. Henrietta Creek looked good but only produced *Diphlebia* in the overcast and wet conditions. We moved on to Tarzali Creek for coffee, lunch, more rain, a quick trip to the doctor's for Erland and team platypus happily paid to see wild females at close range.

Eventually to escape the rain we headed to distant Archers Creek and this proved to be a good idea. Magnus got stuck in to the creek proper whilst we were enjoying *aureofrons* on a sidestream. The main creek gave Magnus a solitary *braganza* that eluded us but we all caught up with the open-country *Nannophlebia risi*. The peripheral vegetation was great for gomphids, all pale hunters? Orange threadtail was present here in small numbers and we all had a photo session with an obliging land-based *aureofrons* before we headed back over a foggy Atherton Tablelands. En route we picked up brolgas in the mist on Bromsfield Swamp.

6/5 Emerald Creek, Barron River (Mareeba), Big Mitchell Creek and Julatten

Leaving Mareeba we headed to nearby Emerald Creek but despite the habitat looking good and different we failed to find anything new – although Magnus found our second record of *Lestes concinnus* by searching dry grass well away from the creek.

Passing back through town we stopped at the Barron River and this produced some entertainment with our only *Anax guttatus* of the trip and our second *Hemicordulia intermedia*. Big Mitchell Creek was a bit odd as we failed to find the track onto the causeway... We kicked about a bit and photographed *Austroagrion*. Finally we headed for a very damp Julatten for a two-night stay. A walk in the garden after dark netted us just a few invertebrates.

7/5 Mount Lewis and Julatten

We went up Mount Lewis in light to heavy rain and eventually turned back to the campsite as the road got more interesting and no sun looked possible. Late in the afternoon after a bit of an identification workshop we did get out and bagged five species for the day on the nearby Nissen creek, including *Rhadinosticta simplex*.

8/5 Mulligan Highway and Laura

Leaving Julatten and Mount Lewis for another day we headed up to Laura for guaranteed sun and new hunting grounds. First up on the Mulligan Highway was a stop that netted us our second encounter with *Austrosticta frater*. The McLeod River was good and netted us our first definite *Pseudagrion jedda* – although subsequent examination of photos proved we had seen this already on the Cumberland Dam day. Also gomphids here...

Next stop was an epic billabong where Roy found us our second *Austrocnemis (splendida)* and *Austroagrion watsoni* was also present. One river that we could not access (sadly many properties were fenced and there were plenty of signs taking great pains to warn us against trespass...). Last stop of the day was a quick blast up to Laura to look at the Split Rock aboriginal rock paintings. Hot climb but well worth it. We spent the night at Cooktown, which quickly became our least favourite spot in Australia.

9/5 Mulligan Highway to Bustard Downs

Started the day by trying to access Keatings Lagoon near Cooktown. The boardwalk was flooded and closed but we nibbled at the edges before moving on to the Little Annan River. Nothing new here although it was the only site on the whole trip where *serapia* outnumbered *sabina*. Another billabong was checked during the morning for the usual suspects, including more *Lestes concinnus* and *Austrolestes insularis*. More *Austrosticta frater* turned up by searching creeks along the road and then Magnus checked some culverts finding our first *Gynacantha nourlangie*. These were roosting in small numbers under the roads in culverts! We overnights at Bustard Downs and cooked on a campfire for the first and last time on the trip. The stars shone down and the air was laden with eucalypt, it was probably the most 'Australian' moment of the trip.

10/5 Mount Lewis and on to Cape Tribulation

Today we headed back up Mount Lewis, the sun was out but the mountain failed to deliver much in the end. We worked the streams identified on the previous wet visit and found just *Synlestes tropicus*! The long walk to the dam netted just *Hemicordulia intermedia* and also the snake *Hemiaspis signata*.

We took our rotisserie chicken lunch to the South Mossman River and afterwards checked out a deep, dark horrible-looking pool under some trees. Incredibly we picked up two new species here with a netted *Zyxomma petiolatum* and a single *Indolestes tenuissimus*. In the late afternoon we crossed the Daintree and camped at Cape Tribulation.

11/5 Cape Tribulation

We spent the day working the lowland forest and mangrove around Cape Tribulation and got some new stuff. At the mangrove boardwalk trail near the campsite we finally found the *Teinobasis* and *Tetrathemis* was flying here too. The rest of the day passed fairly uneventfully but Magnus did great stuff in the campsite in the evening bagging several *Anaciaeschna jaspidea* (a seriously good-looking aeshnid).

12/5 Daintree, Cattana Wetland and Centenary Lakes

Phil had a relaxing morning whilst the rest of the team went croc hunting on the Daintree boat. Afterwards we relocated to Cairns, stopping briefly at Cattana to check out the wetland. It was packed with *Ischnura heterosticta* but we failed to find anything new.

Driving on into Cairns we checked the Centenary Lakes and found *Brachydiplax duivenbodei* and more *Teinobasis*. Birds featured too with our only radjah shelduck and hardhead of the trip.

13/5 Archers Creek

With Magnus and Roy on the Barrier Reef and rain forecast for most of the day we headed back to Archers Creek to try and bag Magnus' *braganza*. We failed but had two hours under a cloudy sky to photograph the usual suspects. Arriving back at the coast we found the sun was out so this was perhaps our least successful day in terms of strategy...

14/5 Crystal Cascades

Our last day in the field finally dawned. For Magnus and Roy it was actually just a last gasp three hours before Phil shuttled them to the airport... Somewhat disturbingly we managed to find at least four new species during the day, the species discovery curve still showing no sign of flattening out even after three weeks!

First up was a stunning female *Podopteryx* – we had finally found a flatwing! Erland was nowhere to be found and though we searched all day he came away empty-handed. Next though Erland filled another gap in our list when he found a *Lestoidea – brevicauda* – along a dark sidestream. Phil went to find Magnus and Roy only to discover that Magnus had seen a small gomphid. Phil went in search of it whilst they back-tracked back up the hill at the double. Phil failed to find a gomphid but had a fleeting encounter (the first of a few) with a superb stealth libellulid – the much-wanted *Agrionoptera longitudinalis*.

After the airport run, Phil returned to Erland to catch up on the *Oristicta* he had found and take some photographs of the *Agrionoptera*. A great end to an exciting recce. Doubtless more can be found here in the middle of the wet season but we just counted ourselves lucky that early 2017 had had some rain unlike the previous three years. Return we will and plans are already being hatched for a south-east Australia trip in 2018/19 (December/January).

[Perhaps we will valet the hire car though before we return it next time as the comments back from Europcar verged on the personal and the AUD400 bill for defumigating it was a nasty surprise...]

Odonata recorded in Queensland between 22nd April and 14th May

<i>Diphlebia euphoeides</i>	Tropical rockmaster	Widespread and often abundant.
<i>Chorismagrion risi</i>	Pretty relict	One on sidestream at Little Crystal River on Paluma Rd was our first. Also recorded at Malanda Falls, Mt Hypipamee NP and Crystal Cascades.
<i>Synlestes tropicus</i>	Tropical needle	Females along the Paluma Road. Two males on Mount Lewis.
<i>Episynlestes cristatus</i>	Tropical whitetip	Amazing! One male at the Little Crystal side-creek on the Paluma Road. A trip highlight.
<i>Lestes concinnus</i>	Dusky spreadwing	Quite common at Undara. A few also seen at Emerald Creek and along the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Austrolestes leda</i>	Wandering ringtail	Single at Undara.
<i>Austrolestes insularis</i>	Northern ringtail	Two at Undara and a few at one of the billabongs along the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Indolestes tenuissimus</i>	Slender reedling	One in the dark pool by the South Mossman River.
<i>Lestoidea brevicauda</i>	Short-tipped bluestreak	Erland found us this species at Crystal Cascades.
<i>Podopteryx selysi</i>	Treehole flatwing	An amazing female sunning itself low-down in the early morning on our last day (at Crystal Cascades).
<i>Nososticta solida</i>	Orange threadtail	Good numbers at Lake Barrine and

<i>Nososticta solitaria</i>	Fivespot threadtail	encountered occasionally in very small numbers thereafter, eg Archers Creek.
<i>Nososticta coelestina</i>	Green-blue threadtail	Widespread.
<i>Austrosticta frater</i>	Eastern pondsitter	Recorded on the first stream we stopped at on the Cumberland Dam road and also in a similar stream on the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Rhadinosticta simplex</i>	Powdered wiretail	Petersons Creek (Yungaburra) and Julatten.
<i>Oristicta filicicola</i>	Slender wiretail	Found on the Babinda side-stream and also at Crystal Cascades.
<i>Neosticta silvarum</i>	Forest pinfly	Little Crystal Creek (1 male).
<i>Teinobasis rufithorax</i>	Red-breasted longtail	Frequently encountered at Cape Tribulation and Cairns Botanical Gardens. A few at Cattana wetland too.
<i>Archibasis mimetes</i>	Blue-banded longtail	One on Lacey Creek for Phil.
<i>Pseudagrion aureofrons</i>	Gold-fronted riverdamsel	One seen well on a two rivers en route to Georgetown. Also present on Archers Creek.
<i>Pseudagrion microcephalum</i>	Blue riverdamsel	Widespread along rivers and streams and also on some stillwaters.
<i>Pseudagrion jedda</i>	Dusky riverdamsel	One immature on one of the rivers checked en route to Cumberland Dam. A few recorded at the McLeod River (mature males present) and on creeks along the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Pseudagrion ignifer</i>	Flame-headed riverdamsel	Widespread along rivers and streams.
<i>Ceriagrion auruginosum</i>	Redtail	Widespread.
<i>Xanthagrion erythroneurum</i>	Red & blue damsel	This gorgeous species was seen all too fleetingly at Undara and again briefly by Phil at Cumberland Dam. A trip highlight.
<i>Austroagrion watsoni</i>	Eastern billabongfly	Small numbers on Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra), Archer's Creek and one of the billabongs on the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Austroagrion exclamationis</i>	Northern billabongfly	The common <i>Austroagrion</i> on the trip, recorded at a number of localities throughout.
<i>Ischnura aurora</i>	Aurora bluetail	Widespread, often numerous where found.
<i>Ischnura heterosticta</i>	Common bluetail	Widespread.
<i>Ischnura pruinescens</i>	Colourful bluetail	Widespread, the fresh females being especially beautiful.
<i>Aciagrion fragile</i>	Blue slim	A few at Lacey's Creek and Eubenangee.
<i>Argiocnemis rubescens</i>	Red-tipped shade fly	Widespread in suitable shaded forest wetlands.
<i>Argiocnemis argentea</i>	Silver wisp	Scattered records, first recorded at Undara.
<i>Argiocnemis dobsoni</i>	Tropical wisp	Undara, Tyto and scattered elsewhere.
<i>Argiocnemis pygmaea</i>	Pygmy wisp	Widespread in lowland wetlands.
<i>Austrocnemis splendida</i>	Splendid longlegs	We were pleased when Roy found this at the 'epic billabong' on the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Austrocnemis macculochi</i>	Tiny longlegs	A great find at Mareeba Wetlands (form the boat jetty right next to the visitor centre). The only species we recorded outside of the depicted range in Hawking and Theischinger?
<i>Austroaeschna weiskei</i>	Ochre-tipped darner	Magnus had one high on the Paluma Road, the rest of us caught up with this spectacular species at Mt Hypipamee and on Mount Lewis.
<i>Austroaeschna forcipata</i>	Green-striped darner	Single along the Paluma Rd (no photo).
<i>Anaciaeschna jaspidea</i>	Australian	Two recorded at Mareeba wetlands. The at-

	duskhawker	the-time unidentified canopy-hawking aeshnids at Malanda Falls were this species. Magnus caught us several at dusk on Cape Tribulation the day he got his mojo back.
<i>Anax gibbulosus</i>	Green emperor	Egg-laying female at pond outside Townsville.
<i>Anax guttatus</i>	Lesser green emperor	Single photographed in flight on the Barron River (Mareeba).
<i>Hemianax papuensis</i>	Australian emperor	Widespread in mostly lowland habitats.
<i>Gynacantha nourlangie</i>	Cave duskhawker	Magnus found these at two road culverts on the Mulligan Highway on 9/5. A trip highlight.
<i>Ictinogomphus australis</i>	Australian tiger	Widespread in lowland wetland complexes.
<i>Austrogomphus amphiclitus</i>	Pale hunter	Widespread often in good numbers – Archers Creek, Narandra, Lacey Creek and Mulligan Highway.
<i>Austrogomphus prasinus</i>	Lemon-tipped hunter	Scarce, recorded at Babinda and the Barron River (Mareeba).
<i>Cordulephya bidens</i>	Tropical shutwing	Small numbers encountered at Peterson Creek (Yungaburra).
<i>Hemicordulia australiae</i>	Australian emerald	One egg-laying female at Big Crystal Creek (Paluma Rd), another male along Peterson's Creek (Yungaburra).
<i>Hemicordulia intermedia</i>	Yellow-spotted emerald	One on the creek along Pickford Rd (Mareeba wetlands). Thereafter encountered singly on a number of occasions.
<i>Aethriamanta circumsignata</i>	Square-spot basker	Tyto wetlands, Mareeba wetlands and billabongs along the Mulligan.
<i>Macrodiplax cora</i>	Wandering pennant	Odd singles at Cumberland and Tyto wetlands. Small numbers at Mareeba wetlands.
<i>Nannophlebia risi</i>	Common archtail	Archers Creek and dry country rivers thereafter.
<i>Nannophlebia eludens</i>	Elusive archtail	Frequently encountered in mostly lowland rainforest streams.
<i>Tetrathemis irregularis</i>	Rainforest elf	A few Jourama Falls, Babinda, Lacey Creek and Cape Tribulation. Best split as <i>cladophila</i> ?
<i>Agrionoptera insignis</i>	Red swamp dragon	First seen at Jourama Falls and thereafter found in suitable dark lowland forest pools.
<i>Agrionoptera longitudinalis</i>	Striped swampdragon	One of the highlights of Crystal Cascades on the last day. Who knew this species was big and black? (Roy did!).
<i>Crocothemis nigrifrons</i>	Black-headed skimmer	A blue <i>Crocothemis</i> ! Scattered records after the first sightings at Undara.
<i>Lathrecista asiatica</i>	Australasian slimwing	Only 2-3 individuals seen (Tyto, Kinaree Range, Lacey Creek and Barron River (Mareeba)).
<i>Orthetrum caledonicum</i>	Blue skimmer	Widespread.
<i>Orthetrum villosovittatum</i>	Fiery skimmer	Widespread.
<i>Orthetrum migratum</i>	Rosy skimmer	Amazingly only seen on one day at Undara (2 individuals together).
<i>Orthetrum sabina</i>	Slender skimmer	Widespread.
<i>Orthetrum serapia</i>	Green skimmer	Small numbers encountered after the first sighting at Tyto wetlands. Only commoner than <i>sabina</i> at one site the Little Annan River near Cooktown.
<i>Brachydiplax denticauda</i>	Palemouth	Widespread and frequently encountered in lowland swamps. One present on the edge of the Botanic Gardens in Cairns, where

<i>Brachydiplax duivenbodei</i>	Darkmouth	<i>duivenbodei</i> dominated the swampy interior of the forest. Photographed at the pond on Wheatley Rd (Mission Beach). Six recorded in sub-canopy swampy wetlands in the Botanic Gardens in Cairns.
<i>Diplacodes haematodes</i>	Scarlet percher	The default <i>Diplacodes</i> along rivers and streams but recorded at many other sites.
<i>Diplacodes bipunctata</i>	Wandering percher	Astonishing numbers at Undara. Frequently encountered in small numbers thereafter.
<i>Diplacodes trivialis</i> <i>Diplacodes nebulosa</i>	Chalky percher Charcoal-winged percher	Frequently encountered at lowland sites. Scattered records after the first at Undara. Particularly numerous at Mareeba Wetlands.
<i>Neurothemis stigmatizans</i>	Painted grasshawk	Widespread.
<i>Nannodiplax rubra</i> <i>Rhodothemis leiftincki</i> <i>Rhyothemis braganza</i>	Pygmy percher Red arrow Iridescent flutterer	Widespread. Scattered records. One unphotographed individual for Magnus (<i>King of the Odos</i>) at Archers Creek.
<i>Rhyothemis princeps</i>	Sapphire flutterer	Tyto wetlands, Eubenangee swamp and Mareeba wetlands.
<i>Rhyothemis graphiptera</i>	Graphic flutterer	After our first at Undara we soon got used to seeing this fantastic <i>Rhyothemis</i> in wetland complexes.
<i>Rhyothemis phyllis</i>	Yellow-striped flutterer	Scattered records in wetland complexes but occasionally present along suitable rivers (eg Barron River, Mareeba).
<i>Tholymis tillarga</i> <i>Zyxomma elgneri</i>	Twister Short-tailed duskdarter	Widespread in lowlands. Magnus netted one at dusk on Peterson Creek (Yungaburra). Another seen hunting during the day under trees from the Mulligan Highway.
<i>Zyxomma petiolatum</i>	Long-tailed duskdarter	One netted by Magnus at the dark pool at the South Mossman River.
<i>Hydrobasileus brevistylus</i>	Water prince	One of the stars of the wetland complexes and billabongs we visited during the trip. A great libellulid.
<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	Wandering glider	Frequently encountered but mostly in supermarket carparks!
<i>Tramea loewii</i>	Common glider	The only <i>Tramea</i> positively identified during the trip. Frequently encountered in still water habitats and occasional elsewhere.