

Sri Lanka recce 2018

Dripping with dreps

Led by Phil Benstead and Uditha Hettige.

Participants: Jörg Adelman, Michael Post, Pam Taylor and Patricia Thompson.

Report by Phil Benstead

Summary

An incredibly productive tour, we collectively recorded approximately two thirds of the known odonate fauna of this magical island (83 species in total). This result was nothing short of miraculous because for the first 11 days (!) we were subjected to appalling weather conditions, courtesy of a very heavy start to the monsoon season in 2018. In one 24-hour period we received more than 150mm of rain... Despite this the team remained stoic and on-task and I actually think it made finding some things easier as species that normally hang in the dark out of sight were festooning trail-edge trees at Sinharaja during the worst of the weather.

Although many of our sightings were predictable enough, we added new sites for the poorly-known *Anaciaeschna donaldi*.

Altogether an enjoyable tour with great odonates, a good supporting cast of other wildlife and very good food. I can heartily recommend Uditha Hettige if you are heading towards Sri Lanka, it was a privilege to spend time with such an accomplished all-round naturalist and he took great care of us too!

Acknowledgements

Thanks to the Jörg for suggesting that we go in the first place and helping with early pre-tour research and planning. Big thanks too to Bird and Wildlife Team who did all our ground arrangements, the tour ran very smoothly thanks to their care and expertise. Finally thanks to Bedjanic *et al.* for producing such an excellent book on Sri Lanka's fauna, which greatly facilitates finding odonates in this fantastic country.

Daily Diary

17/5 to Colombo and Thalangama Lake

A rather tired bunch of odo-enthusiasts gathered at the airport in Colombo by mid-morning, arriving on two flights which both got in early. We were met by Uditha and drove off towards, and eventually through, Colombo. Spot-billed pelicans were commonplace on the city lakes as we cruised the freeway. After about an hour we arrived at our incognito but very pleasant accommodation. Phil checked the garden and amazingly by the swimming pool our first odonate and an endemic species to boot – the delicate *Prodasineura sita*. The edge of the garden also produced some immature *Pseudagrion rubriceps* and a gang of the endemic purple-faced leaf monkey appeared in nearby trees. A good start to proceedings.

After a hearty Sri Lankan lunch we got out into the field. Light rain dogged our progress around the nearby Thalangama Lake but it was worth the effort. We bagged a nice list of mostly widespread Asian libellulids; that included one nice male *Aethriamanta brevipennis*. Darker, more shaded areas of the lakeside produced *Copera marginipes* and nearby our first *Onychargia*.

Careful searching revealed the presence of the diminutive *Agriocnemis pygmaea*. Other damselflies included the lovely mustard yellow *Ceriagrion coromandelianum* and *Pseudagrion malabaricum* were found flying with the ridiculously similar, but much more widespread, *microcephalum*. Michael found Jörg a nice *Epopthalmia exuviae* but sadly an imago eluded us. Birds featured heavily here too with a few nice endemic species popping into view for those who were interested. Eventually fatigue and the approaching dusk caught up with us and we headed back to dinner and bed. (23 species)

18/5

Beddagana wetland, transfer to Ingiriya via Kiriwaththuduwa

After breakfast we drove off to look at the reasonably nearby Kotte wetland, now much altered, protected and re-branded as the Beddagana wetland. Although we saw our first Sri Lanka blue sky en route it managed to start raining when we arrived and halfway round the reserve we were really halted in our tracks, luckily at a shelter, by a real downpour. Despite the less than ideal conditions we managed to amass a reasonable list of new species and consolidate those we might have missed yesterday. One huge advantage of the constant overcast conditions was fantastic light for photography through the day!

Single *Pantala* and *Tramea limbata* were new here and were watched in the period just after a huge downpour from the safety of a shelter. Michael had our first *Urothemis* but although we went back later to try and find it the pond was rather wet and quiet. We all did better with *Diplacodes nebulosa* though, which performed well in the end for all. Lunch beckoned so we headed back to our hotel for another tasty meal and a quick pack of the bags.

Driving to Ingiriya we stopped to pick up bigger umbrellas... Driving the road it actually stopped raining and we started to look for likely habitat. We stopped by a small stream with some reasonably undisturbed dense vegetation bordering it and started searching. There were things to look at and photograph. Pam found us a hooked up *Tholymis* to photograph but this was quickly eclipsed by the shout of GOMPHID from Jörg. He had found a total of three *Macrogomphus lankanensis* perched up in low shrubs! We all tried to get photographs, but they soon drifted up into the trees. Whilst trying to relocate them Phil found a rather beaten-up but perched *Zyxomma*, a species we had earlier seen bazzing about low over the nearby stream. What a great little spot.

Cruising along we soon arrived at our hotel and dumped our bags so as to make the most of the dry, late afternoon conditions. We headed to a bridge over some rapids on a small river. Here we found more *Prodasineura sita* and the vegetation growing out of the bridge had our first endemic *Libellago*, lots of *adami* and just one female *greeni*. Heading down to the waters edge we found our first *Neurobasis* and even had a single *Trithemis aurora*. The rain came back though quickly precipitating a return to the hotel and our first checklist and identification session before dinner. (33 species)

19/5 Nachchimale catchment rivers and streams, transfer to Sinharaja (North)

Our first day with sun dawned and we headed out in search of platystictids... Our first stop at a bridge over a small foothills river was epic. We were quickly into our first *Ceylonosticta* species – the incredibly attractive *nietneri*. We chased them through the dense riverside undergrowth to get photographs. Moving out into the river and perching on some rocks in the sun we enjoyed views of our first *Zygonyx*, *Orthetrum chrysis* and *Trithemis festiva* and everyone caught up with *Trithemis aurora*. Male *Libellago greeni* perched on dangling vegetation and were most welcome after yesterday's female. Moving back the bus we were nearly loaded when the cry of GOMPHID rang in the air. This time a mind-blowing *Megalogomphus ceylonicus* had been found by Uditha. It perched on a rock near the bridge eventually, allowing some record shots to be taken.

Moving down to a small stream we got in and worked our way upstream. *Vestalis apicalis* and *Euphaea* were commonplace here. It did not take long for us to become acquainted with all the plumage types of *Platysticta apicalis*, a fine robust damselfly that was quite common here. More attractive though perhaps were the *Ceylonosticta brincki*, a gorgeous little foxy red and sky-blue shadowdamsel. Our first *Elattoneura centralis* appeared. Walking up the road to another spot on the same stream we left Michael behind (always a mistake). He eventually caught up with us and told us he had been watching not one but two new gomphids! We managed to convert the *Paragomphus henryi* but could not find the *Gomphidia*. One for another day hopefully.

Buoyed up by an incredible morning we then tried to get into a new area but time was against us and after a quick look at a lovely looking stream that produced more *Platysticta* and *Elattoneura* we headed back to a rather late lunch in the hotel, which had been invaded by a huge wedding party.

That just left the drive down to Sinharaja in the afternoon, which we just managed to undertake before dusk. After dinner rain started to fall and was to continue for some time. Weather,

courtesy of heavy start to the monsoon season that was to dog our activities on the following days. (47 species)

20/5 Sinharaja (North)

After an early breakfast we took to our jeep and bounced up the hill to the ticket office. Here we found a nice male *Platysticta apicalis* hanging by the pond in the rain. It was to rain from this point on throughout the day without a break... Despite the weather we did find some of our target species. We headed up to the gate and started walking in. Our keen-eyed park guide (specially selected for the day by Uditha) was incredible at finding hanging dragonflies and almost immediately found us a superb female *Hylaeothemis*! It took a while for the penny to drop that we had actually seen this rarely encountered libellulid. A short distance on we found two males! All the modern records of this species are from inside the park along this one stretch of track.

Our guide was not done though a few hundred metres on he showed us a pair of the recently described *Lyriothemis defonsekai*. Incredible. Two of the big three libellulids in the park under the belt in the first hour of the first session and all in the pouring rain. Phil made a minor contribution to events by finding our first *Elattoneura oculata*. Finding other small species was not going to be easy in the conditions we had during the walk. But we photographed a lot of *Libellago* roosting high in the trees above us hoping for *corbeti* and just one photo (of an immature male) was conclusive enough for us to add this enigmatic jewel to our list when we got back to base... Phil scored a black mark by flushing a just-found possible *yerburii* with his huge umbrella... We could have been contenders but at least we had huge umbrellas!

Eventually well short of the research centre we turned back for the gate and lunch. Our guide was not finished yet though. First he found us our first *Platysticta* (sp. nov. A) perched just above head height near the trail. Then just before we got back to the gate he somehow found us our last good ode – a superb female *Macromidia donaldi*. EMERALD! It was so dark by now that we had to illuminate it with Uditha's torch to get photos, even though it was hanging by the main trail in 'full' light just after midday!

At the gate we retreated to a nearby private house to eat our packed lunch (or curry) and get some tea and coffee in us. The rain hammered down and eventually after waiting a long time we reluctantly took to the jeep to drive the river back to the hotel. Rain continued through the late afternoon and on into the evening flooding the road below the hotel. Before dinner we had time for a lengthy ID workshop led by Trisha and then we had a slap-up dinner and celebrated Michael's birthday. After dinner some of us checked out the garden for frogs in a brief lull in the rain, we quickly racked up four species before the rain returned and we scuttled back to our rooms.

What would tomorrow bring? During the morning session today we only recorded eight species, but six were new and four of these were incredibly high on all our 'must-see' lists. An astonishing session, we could only imagine what would have happened if the sun had been out but perhaps the rain actually helped us see some of these species. (53 species)

21/5 Sinharaja (North)

The weather rallied this morning and brightened a little as we headed back up the hill in the jeep to the gate. We had to contend with plenty of rain though, often in very sharp showers. But just like yesterday we found plenty of species hung up along the trail. Today we had no fewer than three *Macromidia* and actually got some decent photographs. A bigger surprise was a distant but very identifiable male *Macromia zeylanica* hung up in a tree, a species we were to see even better on the return journey to the gate. Likewise we found a male *Epopthalmia*, although this was very distant. Three cordulids in the morning session!

Hylaeothemis were busy along the trail and we probably reached double-figures for the day and even had a territorial male over a small stream. Walking along we finally found a photographable male *Libellago corbeti*, but it was still above head height! Michael found the first of three *Heliogomphus walli* but this one did not behave well, unlike the other two, which posed patiently for photographs when found later on. Our first *Elattoneura caesia* appeared over the trail. Our lowest ever *Lyriothemis* appeared and was enthusiastically photographed.

Reaching the research station we got unlucky with the weather. It rained a lot here and probably affected results, we could not find *Elattoneura tenax* and only Phil had a brief encounter with a *Ceylonosticta brincki*.

Walking back for another late lunch at the gate we enjoyed more of the same but this time the *Macromia zeylanica* was a very close female. After lunch we checked the ponds at the education centre and halfway. Light rain fell throughout and these open habitats were not nearly as productive as the forest in these conditions. We did however bag our first *Lestes praemorsus* before heading to the hotel to dry out. (58 species)

22/5 Sinharaja (North), transfer to Deniya

Finally the weather broke a little, the sun shining for the first time for days and energising all sorts of wildlife into activity. It took some of us ten minutes to get to breakfast from our rooms this morning because there were so many birds in the garden! After breakfast we headed out and checked some habitats near the hotel. The edge of a nearby swamp had some lovely little streams running in deep shade and a dwarf pandanus in the understory. Here we had a splendid time with our first *Ceylonosticta bine* (we were to see a few) and then a splendid, single male *Ceylonosticta anamia*. Heady stuff. We also had a brief *Heliogomphus walli* here too. The open marsh was not nearly as exciting but we had a few *Agriocnemis pygmaea*.

Walking on we checked the nearby river and a small pond. The latter provided a few outstanding highlights. This site was well known to Michael and Trish as a site for *Mortonagrion*. Sure enough it did not take Phil long to find a male of this tiny endemic perched in the gloom in a very dark corner of the pond. Whilst we watched this Pam spotted a superb *Tetrathemis yerburii*, which perched briefly in front of us for photographs and then was on its way. We had completed the hat-trick of the endemic libellulids! Out in the sun more conventional sun-loving odos included *Hydrobasileus croceus* and *Rhyothemis triangularis* (both also new for the trip).

With Michael's flash in two pieces we altered our plans slightly to take in a camera shop during the afternoon drive to Deniya. So we headed back to the hotel to get our bags in the van before lunch. The drive to Galle went past an array of mouthwatering wetland habitats but we could not stop! Outside Galle the non-shoppers were dropped off in a nice fallow paddy area to look at odonates for an hour, whilst the rest of the team looked for camera shops in town. The odoteam failed to find anything startling but enjoyed photographing common species. Back in the van again we had a couple of more hours driving before arriving at Deniya at dusk. (64 species)

23/5 Sinharaja (South)

Today proved to be one of our harder days in the field... Rain continued, often in very sharp showers but we soldiered on through the leeches and the discomfort. Driving up the hill into a good forest patch set in amongst the tea plantations we worked our socks off. Hard work produced results. We found a small stream that produced great views of *Ceylonosticta anamia* and *Ceylonosticta brincki*, as well as a single encounter with a lone *Elattoneura tenax* (the only one of the tour and so nearly missed). Jörg spotted a superb, fresh female *Zygonyx iris* hung up brambles in the rain at one point.

The habitat at one point was very good and we searched the gloomy, dripping forest understory for our first *Ceylonosticta lankanensis*, as well as more *Platystictus apicalis* and *Platystictus* sp. nov. A. Eventually we headed back downhill to the hotel and some respite from the constant rain. (66 species)

24/5 Gin Ganga and transfer to Belihuloya

This morning the weather was completely different and we got a good chunk of sunshine for a change and just when we needed it. We searched two good sites for *Archibasis leiftincki* during the morning, the river was still high after all the rain and running a little fast and this may have

contributed to the fact that we could not find any! But we had a fantastic session chasing gomphids and other riparian species. Crossing the bridge near the hotel we spotted our first gomphid, almost certainly a *Burmagomphus*. It was busy feeding and never stopped for us. Walking into the first site from the road we found a nice female *Heliogomphus walli* on the edge of someone's garden.

Reaching the riverbank Phil started scanning for *Archibasis* but was regularly interrupted by the discovery of gomphids perched in the riverside vegetation. Michael found us a superb male *Burmagomphus* (new for the trip). A little later we were enjoying great views of a female *Macrogomphus lankanensis*. Out on vegetation in midstream we found at least four more *Burmagomphus*. A great spot but having failed to find any *Archibasis* we headed back to the hotel to pick up the van and check out another site.

The second site was also a bust for *Archibasis* sadly but provided a stunning male *Onychothemis*, the ultimate riparian libellulid. Here we also had a great time photographing *Libellago greeni*, finally got round to identifying an *Orthetrum glaucum* and Uditha whistled in a fine chestnut-backed owl. It was time to leave though.

We lunched in the garden of the hotel, a wedding was taking place so we waited for the ceremony to finish before dragging all our luggage out through the gathered throng. Our afternoon drive to Belihuloya was only punctuated by a comfort stop but we had time for a short walk at Belihuloya on arrival. This short walk netted us some *Ceylonosticta* and a hunting *Macromidia*. A good start to our efforts in this new region. (70 species)

25/5 Non Pareil Estate, Hirikatuoya and Semanala reservoir

Today we drove up into the Non Pareil Estate until the driver decided that the road was not suitable for our vehicle. Before this happened we searched some good forest patches for more *Ceylonosticta lankanensis* and *Elattoneura caesia*.

Driving back down to the main road we stopped at Hirikatu Oya, a nice stream running under the road. Here we got great views of *Libellago finalis*, *Vestalis apicalis* and *Heliogomphus walli*. We took our packed lunch to a nearby restaurant and then headed downhill to the nearby Samanala Reservoir.

The reservoir provided plenty of butterflies and some new odonates. Our first *Lathrecista* was found. Michael found us a superb *Aciaagrion occidentale* on the edge of the reservoir and later we found another. A nice end to the day. (73 species)

26/5 Thangemale Bird Sanctuary

Driving uphill to Thangemale this morning produced some awful weather and this really affected results today I think. We worked hard for several hours in the rain and low cloud before Uditha called from somewhere in the woods. We tracked him down and amazingly he had a female *Ceylonosticta montana* perched nearby. We spent some time photographing it. Otherwise birds were good here and provided some much-needed entertainment at times. Toque macaques did excellent POTUS impersonations.

After lunch in a Haputale tea-house we headed out again into the rain to search for odonates along the railway line. Dodging the occasional slow-moving passenger train we walked along checking out suitable streams and wetlands. Jörg scored big, discovering our first territorial male *Indolestes gracilis* on a tiny water tank by a railway workers shelter. Nearby we found a few immatures – a smart and rather photogenic species. (75 species)

27/5 Horton Plains

Today we had a long drive up onto the amazing Horton Plains, a landscape of montane grassland studded with elfin and taller forest patches. The weather though was typical for the tour and it was really windy, wet and very unpleasant! This affected results today without a doubt. At the gate though we had a nice endemic; the evidently weather-proof, rhinoceros-

horned lizard (*Ceratophora stoddartii*). We kept working through the weather and further along the road after Red Bridge we found some deeper, roadside wetlands that were protected from the high winds. It was in these more sheltered ponds that we started to find odonates in the park. Uditha spotted an emerging *Anaciaeschna donaldi* – a female and our first aeshnid at last! Also here were our first *Indolestes gracilis* of the day.

With conditions just too appalling to enjoy we bit the bullet and headed out of the park and on to Nuwara Eliya. We stopped briefly at small lake, which produced our first *Sympetrum fonscolombii*, another emerging *Anaciaeschna donaldi* (a male this time) and lots more *Indolestes gracilis*. High winds were still evident and when the eucalypt branches started snapping and landing nearby we called it a wrap and headed down to the town, lurching en route in a small restaurant.

We checked an *Indolestes divisus* site in town (unsuccessfully) before spending the last part of the afternoon looking at the wetland habitats centred on the racetrack. This looked fantastic habitat but the gloomy overcast conditions did not fill us with optimism. Despite this though Pam found us our first *Ischnura aurora*, which in the absence of other odonates received a lot of photographic attention. That just left the three-hour drive back to Belihuloya and a rather late dinner... (78 species)

28/5 Belihuloya and transfer to Kithulgala via the Balangoda-Hatton road...

It was somewhat inevitable that some *Ceylonosticta*-based confusion might seep into this recce tour and so after breakfast we went back out into the nearby river environs to try and track down *Ceylonosticta austeni* for Jörg. We failed to find any and examination of the photographs taken the day before revealed we had yet to find this species. Also here a single *Lathrecista*.

Taking to the vehicle we drove the relatively short distance to the shrine junction at Pinnawala to search another site for *austeni*. Here we had access to a nice waterfall, stream and peripheral seeps and a short walk down the road took us to a bigger rocky river. We worked this area happily for over an hour and turned up some lovely species. A single male *austeni* was finally located here. The first stream area had a few *Heliogomphus walli*, another couple of *Lathrecista* and plenty of *Zygonyx*. A mature male *Anaciaeschna donaldi* hanging here was a surprise. Walking down to the other river we found more *Heliogomphus*, a single male *Libellago finalis* and Jörg found us our second *Tetrathemis yerburii*. The latter perching nicely for photographs and a definite highlight of the session.

Moving on we chugged up the hill along the narrow road through the tea plantations. Eventually we found another nice little stream in great forest. The sun shone a little bit on our endeavours and this greatly facilitated our hunt for the next set of *Ceylonosticta* species. Phil quickly spotted a nice male *montana* and whilst this was being photographed he found a nearby male *tropica*. Job done.

That just left us with the longish drive to Kithulgala, punctuated by stops to get provisions. At the hotel we had a little time to look around and found a *Platysticta apicalis* in the garden. (79 species)

29/5 Kithulgala

Crossing the river on the ferry immediately produced sightings of *Ceylonosticta digna* (and *brincki*) in bankside vegetation. A small stream produced flight views of *Macromia zeylanica*. Walking through good forest we came to a small fallow paddy area that produced some great moments. Around the periphery we found *Heliogomphus walli* and Uditha found us a superb roosting Serendib scops-owl. The paddy had common libellulids, *Onychargia*, *Ceriagrion cerinorubellum*, a single *Lestes praemorsus*, more *Rhyothemis triangularis* and when the sun got high in the sky our only *Neurothemis intermedia* of the tour appeared. On the way out we checked swampy areas and picked up a male *Hylaeothemis*. Later in the afternoon we searched the Plantation hotel grounds and river and got more photos of *Ceylonosticta digna*. (81 species)

30/5 Kithulgala and transfer to Colombo via Meegahawatta wetland

Our last morning at Kithulgala was a stormer. The streams near the fallow paddy were searched diligently and turned up *Gomphidia pearsoni* and three superb *Megalogomphus ceylonicus*. Walking to the base of the waterfalls produced another *Gomphidia* and two *Onychothemis testacea*.

We took lunch back at the hotel and then headed for Colombo. On the way we searched out an access point for the Meegahawatta wetland hoping for an *Archibasis*. Uditha got us into the place, it was interesting habitat but the swamp forest was running high after all the rain and we could not search enough of it to find anything interesting. Yomping out we stopped briefly to eat rambutans off the tree with a local bloke. Arriving back at our homestay in Colombo we enjoyed a final superb Sri Lankan dinner. (81 species)

31/5 Thalangama and flights

Our final morning dawned sunny and we headed just round the corner to Thalangama for one last throw of the dice. Conditions were more conducive this morning than on our first visit and we saw many of the things we were hoping to see. First up was our first *Ictinogomphus rapax*, we were to see several around the lakeshore in the early morning, before the sun burnt them off the lake. Also here loads of *Urothemis signata*. Our search for the endemic *Cyclogomphus* was ultimately doomed but whilst searching the far end of the lake we came across our first (and only) *Trithemis pallidinervis* and found an educational female *Urothemis*. Back at the lake proper we had a very rapid *Epopthalmia* briefly and we enjoyed watching patrolling *Hydrobasileus*. Just as we were thinking of heading for lunch the shout came up from Uditha, he had found one of Trish's target libellulids, the superbly camouflaged *Bradinopyga geminata*. We watched three jostling for position on a concrete wall for some time.

That just left the short shuttle back to the hotel, a final lunch and goodbye with the incomparable Uditha and a short rest before we surrendered to the tedious drive to the airport and the flight process. Phil, Michael and Jörg were heading for Hanoi (and another action-packed, two-week tour that would net over 200 species!) and the ladies were bound for the UK. (83 species)

Odonata recorded in Sri Lanka between 17th and 31st May

<i>Neurobasis chinensis</i>	First seen along the river at Ingiriya (ssp <i>chinensis</i>). Thereafter small numbers on five further dates.
<i>Vestalis apicalis</i>	First recorded on Day 3 (Nachchimale), the endemic ssp. <i>nigrescens</i> . Frequent thereafter (six further dates).
<i>Libellago adami</i>	This endemic was first seen at the bridge near Ingiriya on the second day. Examining photographs later revealed that we also had one on the last day at Thalangama.
<i>Libellago corbeti</i>	We photographed one immature male of this recently described endemic in the rain at Sinharaja (North) on the first day. A much better observation was achieved the next day there, again of a single male. Other <i>Libellago</i> perched high in the rain in the forest here were doubtless this species though.
<i>Libellago finalis</i>	Our final endemic jewel was first seen at Hirikatu Oya (near Belihuloya) when we found a single male. Our only other sighting was of another single male at Pinnawalle.
<i>Libellago greeni</i>	A single female at Ingiriya was our first example of this engaging endemic. Thereafter noted at Nachchimale, Sinharaja (North) and many other sites. We all got great photos at Samanala Reservoir.
<i>Euphaea splendens</i>	This splendid endemic was first recorded at Nachchimale. Seen on a total of 11 dates.
<i>Lestes praemorsus</i>	Just one pair in tandem at the halfway pond (Sinharaja (North)), ssp <i>decepiens</i> . A single male at Kithulgala in the fallow paddy in the forest.
<i>Indolestes gracilis</i>	First seen quite low down on the railway pond at Glenamore (near Thangemale), this ssp., <i>gracilis</i> , is endemic. Commoner higher up on the Horton Plains and a few at Nuwara Eliya the next day.

<i>Onychargia atrocyana</i>	Small numbers at Thalangama, Sinharaja (North) and Kithulgala.
<i>Agriocnemis pygmaea</i>	Thalangama, Sinharaja (North), Galle and Nuwara Eliya.
<i>Mortonagrion ceylonicum</i>	A single male, at the site at Sinharaja (North), of this splendid little endemic.
<i>Paracercion malayanum</i>	Easily found perched on lily pads at Thalangama at the beginning and end of the trip.
<i>Aciagrion occidentale</i>	Two in wetlands around the edge of Samanala Reservoir (near Belihuloya). A new site for this delightful species.
<i>Ischnura aurora rubilio</i>	Only seen in the racecourse wetland at Nuwara Eliya (just 2 individuals).
<i>Ischnura senegalensis</i>	Only seen in small numbers at Thalangama and Beddagana. Large numbers on the 'President's Pond' at Nuwara Eliya.
<i>Ceriagrion cerinorubellum</i>	Recorded in small numbers at Kiriwaththuduwa, Sinharaja (North) and Kithulgala.
<i>Ceriagrion coromandelianum</i>	Only recorded at Thalangama, Beddagana and Kiriwaththuduwa.
<i>Pseudagrion malabaricum</i>	Small numbers at Thalangama, Beddagana, Kiriwaththuduwa and Galle.
<i>Pseudagrion microcephalum</i>	Only recorded at Thalangama and Kiriwaththuduwa.
<i>Pseudagrion rubriceps</i>	Only recorded at Thalangama, Kiriwaththuduwa, Deniya and Kithulgala. This is an endemic ssp., <i>ceyonicum</i> .
<i>Copera marginipes</i>	Widespread. Recorded on 12 dates.
<i>Ceylonosticta anamia</i>	Just one of these superb endemic platystictids at Sinharaja (North). A few the next day at Sinharaja (South) too.
<i>Ceylonosticta austeni</i>	This endemic was scarce, we had just one male at Pinnawalla (Balangoda-Hatton road).
<i>Ceylonosticta bine</i>	This wet zone endemic species was recorded on one day at Sinharaja (North), Sinharaja (South) and Kithulgala.
<i>Ceylonosticta brincki</i>	This fantastic foxy / sky blue endemic confection was a big hit at Nachchimale. A few at Sinharaja in the rain (North and South) and common at Kithulgala.
<i>Ceylonosticta digna</i>	This endemic was identified retrospectively in photos from Kithulgala.
<i>Ceylonosticta lankanensis</i>	This widespread endemic was first seen at Sinharaja (South) where it was common. Also a few in the Non Pareil Estate.
<i>Ceylonosticta montana</i>	Single female of this endemic platystictid at Thangemale Bird Sanctuary. A good male on the Balangoda-Hatton road.
<i>Ceylonosticta nietneri</i>	Seeing <i>Ceylonosticta</i> species was in many ways the <i>raison d'être</i> of the tour and this snazzy endemic was our first at Nachchimale. A few along the river at Belihuloya.
<i>Ceylonosticta tropica</i>	One male on the Balangoda-Hatton road.
<i>Platysticta apicalis</i>	This huge and splendid endemic was first encountered at Nachchimale. Recorded on a total of seven dates thereafter.
<i>Platysticta</i> sp. nov. A	A female of this undescribed endemic on the first wet day at Sinharaja (North). A few at Sinharaja (South) too.
<i>Elattonneura caesia</i>	This endemic threadtail was first recorded on the second day at Sinharaja. Thereafter a few at Sinharaja (South), Pinnawalla and Kithulgala.
<i>Elattonneura centralis</i>	This common endemic was first encountered on day 3 at Nachchimale. Scattered records thereafter (six dates).
<i>Elattonneura oculata</i>	A few nearly daily at Sinharaja (North) and Kithulgala. Endemic.
<i>Elattonneura tenax</i>	This excellent cherry-eyed endemic was only seen at Sinharaja (South) – one individual involved.
<i>Prodasineura sita</i>	The first odo we saw on tour was this little endemic species, in the garden of our first hotel on the outskirts of Colombo. Also at Ingiriya, Galle, Deniya and Kithulgala.
<i>Anaciaeschna donaldi</i>	Emerging individuals at Horton Plains and the small lake below there on the way to Nuwara Eliya were a surprise. We had an old male at Pinnawalla the next day too! A rarely recorded (and seldom photographed) species throughout its

<i>Anax immaculifrons</i>	large montane range in South Asia.
<i>Burmagomphus pyramidalis</i>	Uditha recorded one on the Horton Plains.
<i>Heliogomphus walli</i>	We had at least five individuals of the endemic ssp. <i>sinuatus</i> on the Gin Ganga at Deniya.
	We recorded two males and a female of this endemic forest gomphid on the second day at Sinharaja (North). Another the next day near the hotel. Singles at the Gin Ganga (Deniya), Hirikatuoya and Pinnawalla. A few daily at Kithulgala. Our most frequently encountered gomphid.
<i>Macrogomphus lankanensis</i>	Three roosting away from water at Kiriwaththuduwa, this species is confined to the wet zone of SW Sri Lanka. A superb endemic. Also one or two females at the Gin Ganga (Deniya).
<i>Megalogomphus ceylonicus</i>	This uncommon and completely fantastic yellow, green and black endemic was first found at Nachchimale but distantly. Three close at Kithulgala was a trip highlight.
<i>Paragomphus henryi</i>	Our only example of this endemic hooktail was found by Michael at Nachchimale and fortunately seen by all.
<i>Gomphidia pearsoni</i>	Michael recorded our first at Nachchimale on Day 3. The rest of us finally caught up with this enormous gomphid at Kithulgala on the second day there when we found two individuals in different streams.
<i>Ictinogomphus rapax</i>	Uditha had one at Beddagana. We all caught up with this species on the last morning at Thalangama.
<i>Epopthalmia vittata</i>	Exuviae found at Thalangama. One distant perched male at Sinharaja (North) on the second day, endemic ssp <i>cyanocephala</i> . One zooming about at Thalangama on the last morning.
<i>Macromia zeylanica</i>	Our second day at Sinharaja (North) produced hanging views of a male and a female of this glorious endemic. These were almost certainly seen well like this because of the rain! One photographed poorly at Kithulgala
<i>Macromidia donaldi</i>	Our local guide at Sinharaja (North) found one hanging near the trail in the pouring rain on our first day there, the endemic ssp <i>pethiyagodai</i> . We had three hanging there the next day! More normally we had one feeding at dusk at Belihuloya on the first evening there.
<i>Hylaeothemis fruhstorferi</i>	Amazingly we found two males and a female of this rarely recorded endemic on our first outing at Sinharaja despite the rain. Many more seen in slightly better weather there the next day. We also recorded this species at Kithulgala when Uditha flushed a male of this species into overhanging trees in a swamp. Knowledge of the distribution of this species has been greatly extended since the publication of the Bedjanic <i>et al.</i> book.
<i>Tetrathemis yerburii</i>	Our first male of this charming endemic at Sinharaja (North) caused great excitement. Later we also recorded single males at Pinnawalla and Kithulgala.
<i>Brachydiplax sobrina</i>	Recorded in small numbers at ponds and wetlands at Thalangama, the halfway pond at Sinharaja (North) and near the hotel there the next day.
<i>Lathrecista asiatica</i>	A few in scrub and seepages around Samanala Reservoir (near Belihuloya), nominate ssp. involved. Also seen at sites along the Balangoda-Hatton road and at Kithulgala.
<i>Lyriothemis defonsekai</i>	A male and a female of this recently discovered endemic hanging close together in the rain at Sinharaja (North) on our first day there. Four there the next day were hanging lower and allowed for photography in the rain.
<i>Orthetrum chrysis</i>	Widespread (seven dates).
<i>Orthetrum glaucum</i>	Scattered records, mostly identified retrospectively from photographs... (five dates).
<i>Orthetrum luzonicum</i>	Widespread (10 dates).
<i>Orthetrum pruinosum</i>	Widespread (recorded on six dates). This is ssp. <i>neglectum</i> .
<i>Orthetrum sabina</i>	Widespread (recorded on eight dates).

<i>Acisoma panorpoides</i>	Widespread (recorded on nine dates).
<i>Brachythemis contaminata</i>	Only recorded at Thalangama and Beddagana, where common.
<i>Bradynopyga geminata</i>	Three at Thalangama on the last morning thanks to Uditha.
<i>Crocothemis servilia</i>	First seen at Thalangama, thereafter on four dates, nominate ssp.
<i>Diplacodes nebulosa</i>	Only seen in very small numbers at Beddagana and the halfway pond at Sinharaja (North).
<i>Diplacodes trivialis</i>	Widespread (12 dates).
<i>Neurothemis intermedia</i>	2-3 males in the fallow paddy at Kithulgala around noon on the full day there, nominate ssp.
<i>Neurothemis tullia</i>	Widespread (nine dates), nominate ssp.
<i>Rhodothemis rufa</i>	Only recorded at Thalangama (both dates).
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i>	Scattered individuals on the Horton Plains / Nuwara Eliya day only.
<i>Trithemis aurora</i>	One at Ingiriya and scattered records thereafter (seven dates).
<i>Trithemis festiva</i>	Scattered records (nine dates).
<i>Trithemis pallidinervis</i>	One male on the last morning at Thalangama.
<i>Onychothemis testacea</i>	One or two males of this excellent libellulid on the Gin Ganga at Deniya, ssp <i>ceylanica</i> . Two males at Kithulgala on the last day there.
<i>Rhyothemis triangularis</i>	A good population on one of the ponds at Sinharaja (North). Seen daily in the fallow paddy at Kithulgala.
<i>Rhyothemis variegata</i>	Noted at Thalangama, Beddagana and Galle, nominate ssp.
<i>Hydrobasileus croceus</i>	One on a pond at Sinharaja (North). A few patrolling at Thalangama on the second visit.
<i>Pantala flavescens</i>	One at Beddagana and another near Deniya.
<i>Tramea limbata</i>	One at Beddagana.
<i>Tholymis tillarga</i>	A few flying at Thalangama on the first late afternoon visit and one roosting at Kiriwaththuduwa the next day.
<i>Zyxomma petiolatum</i>	Kiriwaththuduwa and Ingiriya on Day 2. One patrolling the shaded stream at Meegahawatta swamp.
<i>Aethriamanta brevipennis</i>	One male at Thalangama on the first visit, nominate ssp.
<i>Urothemis signata</i>	Perhaps three there on the second visit.
	Michael had one at Beddagana. The rest of us caught up with this species on the second visit to Thalangama, when it was numerous.
<i>Zygonyx iris</i>	First seen at Nachchimale, the endemic ssp. <i>ceylonicus</i> . Also at Sinharaja (South), Non Pareil Estate, the Balangoda-Hatton road and Kithulgala.