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Odonata Of Rice Fields In Poonch And Bagh Districts of Azad Kashmir

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Rice (*Oryza stiva* L.), an important cereal crop of Azad Jammu and Kashmir, is grown in an area of 7,000 hectares. However, the average yield is very low (1483 Kg/ha) and infestation by a number of insect pests is one of the factors responsible for it. Therefore, insecticide application is an essential component of successful rice cultivation. These are not only expensive but also hazardous to the environment.

Odonates frequently visit rice fields and are reported to be important predators of rice insect pests [1-4]. A survey was, therefore, undertaken to identify rice field Odonata in bagh and Poonch districts. The localities visited during the survey were Arja, Bagh, Bajri, Harighail, Nomanpura and Hajeera. Fourteen odonate species of the families Libellulidae and Coenagrionidae were collected from rice fields.

The libellulids were *Acisoma panarpoides panarpoides* Rambur, *Crocothemis servilia* (Drury), *C. erythraea* (Brull'e), *Orthetrum glaucum* (Brauer), *Palpopleura sexmaculata sexmaculata* (F.) and *Trithemis festiva* (Rambur). The coenagrionids were *Agriocnemis pygmaea* (Rambur).

A. splendidissima Laidlaw, *Ischnura aurora* (Brauer), *I. forcipata* Morton, *I. senegalensis* (Rambur), *Pseudagrion decorum* (Rambur), *P. laidlawi* Fraser, and *P. rubriceps* Selys (Table 1). *A. splendidissima* Laidlaw is a new addition to the odonate fauna of Azad Jammu and Kashmir.

TABLE 1. DISTRIBUTION OF ODONATES IN RICE FIELDS OF POONCH AND BAGH DISTRICTS OF AZAD JAMMU AND KASHMIR.

S.No. Species	Localities					
	Arja	Bagh	Bajri	Hari-ghail	Noman-pura	Hajeera
Family Libellulidae						
1. <i>Acisoma panarpoides panarpoides</i>	-	-	-	-	-	-
2. <i>Crocothemis servilia</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+
3. <i>C. erythraea</i>	+	-	+	+	+	+
4. <i>Orthetrum glaucum</i>	-	-	-	+	-	-
5. <i>Palpopleura sexmaculata sexmaculata</i>	+	-	-	+	-	+
6. <i>Trithemis festiva</i>	+	-	+	-	-	+
Family Coenagrionidae						
7. <i>Agriocnemis pygmaea</i>	+	-	-	-	-	+
8. <i>A. splendidissima</i>	+	-	-	-	-	-
9. <i>Ischnura aurora</i>	+	-	+	+	-	-
10. <i>I. forcipata</i>	+	+	+	+	-	+
11. <i>I. senegalensis</i>	-	+	+	-	-	-
12. <i>Pseudagrion decorum</i>	-	-	-	-	-	+
13. <i>P. laidlawi</i>	+	+	+	-	-	+
14. <i>P. rubriceps</i>	+	+	+	-	-	+

+ = Indicates the presence, - = Indicates the absence

Key words: Odonata, Rice, Azad Kashmir.

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