

The Canadian Entomologist.

Vol. XLIV.

LONDON, SEPTEMBER, 1912.

No. 9

THE ODONATA OF THE PRAIRIE PROVINCES OF CANADA.

BY E. M. WALKER, TORONTO.

With the exception of the short lists of captures in the Entomological Record, published in the Annual Reports of the Entomological Society of Ontario, and a few other isolated records, no information appears to be extant on the Odonata of the vast territory between Ontario and British Columbia. Before the section on the Odonata of the new Catalogue of Canadian Insects is issued, it seems, therefore, desirable to place on record in detailed form all the information we have been able to obtain on the distribution of the dragonflies of this region.

The source of this information is mainly to be found in the collections made by Messrs. J. B. Wallis, N. Criddle, T. N. Willing and N. B. Sanson, and to these gentlemen the writer wishes to express his sincere thanks for the privilege he has enjoyed of retaining specimens for study for an indefinite length of time, or permanently for his collection. The list is of a preliminary nature, and no doubt many species will be added to it in the future.

In looking over almost any collection of dragonflies from the prairie country one is apt to be struck with the large preponderance in individuals of the genera *Lestes*, *Sympetrum*, *Enallagma* and *Aeshna*. These genera are also best represented in number of species, *Leucorrhinia* coming fifth. The latter genus is probably nowhere better developed in North America than here. There are doubtless also more species of *Somatochlora* from this region than appear in the present list, particularly in the less explored northern parts. Apart from this genus, the *Corduliinae* are apparently poorly developed. The absence of *Agrioninae* (*Calopteryginae* Auctt.) and *Cordulegasterinae* is probably also due to insufficient exploration. The occurrence of two species of the genus *Coenagrion* (*Agrion* Auctt.) is of much interest, one of the species being almost identical with the Palearctic *C. lunulatum*. Finally, attention may be drawn to the fact that if we include *Aeshna caerulea septentrionalis*, which has been