

surface of the head. The mouth occupies the upper lip is broad. The organs of the mouth are voracious desires. a large, flat, lobed ected forward to a

as long as the head, being of a medium ne hue.

usually to the end, its length. The is along each side, The upper surface

the lower surface

side of the upper l three-eighths to owest. The sub-arent membrane, there proceeds a ddle of the wings ely across. The enabling the in-icy and brilliant l other members ombine to give arance when fly- unshine, and evi- popular names the French and

other members hich are more or us parts of the

aculata, the four- (fig. 44.) is seen, flying through m any standing

mon Dragon-



Fig. 47. abdomen. There are three dusky spots on the front edge of each wing, and a large cloud at the base of the hind pair towards the hind angles of the wing.

Rather a rare form, and of much smaller stature is the *Nannophya bella*, (Fig. 48.) It was first detected in Baltimore, and was afterwards found unfrequently by a pond in Maine. Its abdomen is unusually short, and the reticulations of the wings are large and simple. The female is black, while the male is frosted over with a whitish powder.

In the allied genus *Agrionina*, there are many interesting insects; we give an illustration in fig. 49. of one of the most common, *Agrion saucium*. This insect is smaller in size than those we have previously mentioned.

Although in this country we rarely see Dragon-flies gathered in large numbers at one time, yet it is known that in some countries they not unfrequently form immense swarms. In Kirby and Spence's Entomology we find the following:—"Meineken tells us, that he once saw in a Village in Anhalt, on a clear day, about four in the afternoon, such a cloud of Dragon-flies (*Libellulina*) as almost concealed the sun, and not a little alarmed were the villagers, under the idea they were locusts; several instances are given by Rosel, of similar clouds of these insects having been seen in Silesia and other districts; and Mr. Woolnough, of Hollesley in Suffolk, a most attentive observer of nature, once witnessed such an army of the smaller dragon-flies, (*Agrion*) flying inland from the sea, as to cast a slight shadow over a field of four acres, as they passed.

A migration of Dragon-flies was witnessed at Weimar, in Germany, in 1816, and one far more considerable, perhaps the greatest on record, May 30th and 31st, 1839, when cloud-like swarms of these insects, chiefly (*Libellula depressa*) were seen at Weimar, Eisenach, Leipsig, Halle and Gottingen, and the intervening country, extending over a large district."

Although so well known in the adult or perfect state, comparatively little is known of the transformations of Dragon-flies. They may be easily kept in aquaria where their various changes may be watched, and any one who can spend the necessary time and patience in rearing them, so as to trace up the different stages from the larva to the adult fly, and describe and figure them accurately, will do good service to science (Packard).

The graceful appearance of these insects has not escaped the notice of poets, for Moore alludes to them as "the beautiful blue damsel flies," while Tennyson, in his poem of the "Two Voices," gives the following description:—

To-day I saw the Dragon-fly
Come from the wells where he did lie.
An inner impulse rent the veil
Of his old husk: from head to tail
Came out clear plates of sapphire mail.

He dried his wings: like gauze they grew;
Through crofts and pastures wet with dew
A living flash of light he flew.



Fig. 48.



Fig. 49.