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A KEY TO THE NORTH AMERICAN SPECIES OF AESHNA FOUND NORTH OF MEXICO.

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Although nearly two years have elapsed since the writer commenced a critical study of the North American species of the Odonate genus *Aeshna*, Fabr., it will be some time yet before the work is completed. This delay has been chiefly due to the length of time required for the execution of the numerous illustrations and for obtaining a proper field knowledge of the various species, and also to difficulties experienced in collecting and rearing the nymphs.

This being the case, it was decided to issue in advance an analytical key to the species treated in the revision in order that, in the interval, species may be listed or otherwise referred to under the names employed therein.

It has been necessary to draw up a separate key for the determination of the females, as the chief diagnostic characters of the males are found in the superior appendages and accessory genitalia. This key to the females is largely artificial, and it has been very difficult to find reliable characters for the separation of some of the species, although with experience they can almost always be recognized at a glance. Of some of the species I have seen very few females, and it is very probable that with sufficient material some of the characters used will prove invalid.

A few of the terms employed in the key require special notice. The terms hamular process and hamular fold designate respectively the more superficial and deeper parts of the anterior hamules, and are sufficiently well indicated in figs. 2 and 3 on the plate.

As the colour pattern is of the same type throughout the genus as represented in North America, it has been found convenient to apply special names to the different bands and spots which characterize this pattern.

The name dorsal thoracic band requires no explanation. The first and second lateral thoracic bands are two oblique pale bands on the sides of the mesepimeron and metepimeron respectively. The names used to