

NOTE ON SYNONYMY IN ASIATIC *CERIAGRION* SPECIES
(ZYGOPTERA: COENAGRIONIDAE)

M. HÄMÄLÄINEN

Department of Agricultural and Forest Zoology,
University of Helsinki, SF-00710 Helsinki, Finland

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Ceriagrion chaoi Schmidt, 1964 is shown to be a valid species. *C. latericum* Lieftinck, 1951 is a junior synonym of *C. auranticum* Fraser, 1922.

ASAHINA (1971) clarified the status of the four *Ceriagrion* species which were treated as "species incertae sedis" in his revision of Asiatic *Ceriagrion* (ASAHINA, 1967). One of these was *C. auranticum* FRASER, 1922, described rather inadequately and without illustrations on the basis of 3 males from Bangkok.

After studying the lectotype of *C. auranticum*, ASAHINA (1971) considered *C. chaoi* Schmidt, 1964 to be the same as *auranticum* and made *chaoi* a junior synonym. This, however, is incorrect. I have recently compared the lectotype male of *auranticum* and the holotype male of *chaoi*. These species are distinct. The penile organs are completely different. Further, in *auranticum* the abdomen is more slender, with the intermediate segments distinctly less expanded than the basal and terminal ones, whereas in *chaoi* the abdomen is slightly more cylindrical.

The penile organ of *C. chaoi* was figured by ASAHINA (1967), who also amended the very short original description of the species. On the other hand, study on the penile organ of the lectotype of *C. auranticum* revealed that it is identical with the peculiar branched organ of *C. latericum* Lieftinck, 1951, as figured by ASAHINA (1967). I have also compared the lectotype of *auranticum* with LIEFTINCK's (1951) original material of *latericum* from Sumatra (1 ♂ from S.E. Sumatra, Palembang and 1 ♂ from N.E. Sumatra, Deli, Serbalawan) and found them to be similar in all respects. Further, Dr. J. van Tol has kindly studied the penile organ of the holotype of *C. latericum* from S.E. Sumatra,

which proved to be identical with ASAHINA's (1967) figure drawn from Thai material. Thus, *C. latericum* is a junior synonym of *C. auranticum* and the correct name of its northern subspecies is *C. auranticum ryukyuanum* Asahina, 1967.

To summarize the relevant references:

Ceriagrion auranticum FRASER, 1922: 236-237.

Ceriagrion latericum LIEFTINCK, 1951: 193-196, syn. nov.

Ceriagrion latericum latericum, ASAHINA, 1967: 291-293.

Ceriagrion latericum latericum, ASAHINA, 1982: 462.

Ceriagrion chaoi SCHMIDT, 1964: 152, bona spec.

Ceriagrion chaoi, ASAHINA, 1967: 277-279.

Ceriagrion auranticum, ASAHINA, 1982: 461 [nec FRASER, 1922].

C. a. auranticum is a lowland species and it is known from Thailand, Malaya, Sumatra, Java, Sumba and Vietnam. *C. auranticum ryukyuanum* occurs in China, Taiwan and Japan. *C. chaoi* is known only from Burma, Thailand and Malaya.

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