

BugsRAll

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

A record of Splendid Dartlet from Jhargram District, West Bengal, India

Agriocnemis splendidissima

Laidlaw, 1919 commonly known as Splendid Dartlet, is a small damselfly of Coenagrionidae family. This is one of the 11 species of genus *Agriocnemis* Selys, 1877 found in India (Kalkman et al. 2020). In India, it is recorded from the states of Assam, Tripura, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Kerala (Subramanian 2018; Subramanian et al. 2018). Elsewhere, it has been reported from Pakistan (Khaliq & Siddique 1995; Kalkman et al. 2020). In the state of West Bengal, eight species of *Agriocnemis* are known to occur (Dawn 2021). Earlier in West Bengal, *A. splendidissima* was recorded from the districts of Hooghly, Howrah, Jalpaiguri, Cooch



***Agriocnemis splendidissima* adult male individual at Khandarani Lake, Jhargram District, West Bengal, India. 09 October 2019 © Tanmoy Bhowmick.**

Behar, and Bankura (Ram et al. 1982; Srivastava & Sinha 1993; Mitra 2002; Singhamahapatra 2020; Dawn 2021). In 1982, Ram et al. first reported the occurrence of *Agriocnemis splendidissima* in West Bengal from Devendrapur of Hooghly and Santragachi of Howrah Districts. Srivastava & Sinha (1993) remarked, this species frequently inhabits at bed of running water bodies, like streams, in

shallow zone with sprouting aquatic vegetation. It can also be found in stagnant water bodies and in rice fields (Khaliq & Siddique 1995; Subramanian 2018). According to Nair & Subramanian (2014), this species is distributed scattered in wet areas of India.

During an opportunistic survey on odonates in Khandarani lake (22.40°N,

BugsRAll

Newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)



Edge of Khandarani Lake with vegetation, emerged from shallow water. 09 October 2019 © Tanmoy Bhowmick.

86.42°E), Jhargram District, West Bengal, India, on 09 October 2019, one adult male individual of *Agriocnemis splendidissima* at the edge of the lake was observed at 1244 h. This area is a part of Chota Nagpur Plateau physiographic region. Jhargram District covers an area of 3024.38 km² and has an average elevation of 81 m (<https://Jhargram.gov.in>). Khandarani lake is a freshwater lake of the district. There were some emergent vegetations along

Table 1. Compiled list of distributional records of *Agriocnemis splendidissima* from West Bengal State, India.

Number of individuals/Sex	Locality	Date	Reference
1 Female	Devendrapur, Hooghly District	24.iii.1976	Ram et al. 1982
1 Female	Santragachi, Howrah District	26.xii.1976	Ram et al. 1982
1 Male, 1 Female	Bijan Bari Forest, Raja Bhathkhawa, Jalpaiguri District	19.iii.1986	Srivastava & Sinha 1993
1 Male	Sonapur, Koch Bihar (Cooch Behar) District	01.v.1987	Srivastava & Sinha 1993
1 Male	Kanakshyaguri, Jalpaiguri District	07.v.1987	Srivastava & Sinha 1993
-	Hooghly district, Howrah District	-	Dawn 2021
1 Male	Khandarani Lake, Jhargram District	09.x.2019	Present Study
1 Male	Raygar, Bankura District	15.xi.2020	Singhamahapatra 2020 (iNaturalist.org)

BugsRAll

Newsletter of the
Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

the shallow water at the edge of the lake. *Agriocnemis splendidissima* individual was perched on a grass leaf, and the grass was emerged from shallow water at the edge of the lake. The individual was photographed in the field using Nikon Coolpix B500 SLR camera and the species was identified from field observations and photographs, following Mitra (2002), Nair (2011) and Nair & Subramanian (2014). Three photographs of *A. splendidissima* individual were uploaded on Odonata

of India website, with media codes bs656, bs657, and bs658 (Anonymous 2021). This is the first report of *Agriocnemis splendidissima* from Jhargram District of West Bengal. Except this present record, there is only one other record of this species from Chota Nagpur Plateau region of West Bengal, that is, from Raygar in Bankura District (Singhamahapatra 2020). That location is about 33km away from the present study area. Six other species of odonates were also

observed at the same edge of Khandarani Lake from 1230 to 1250 h on that day. Those species were *Ictinogomphus rapax*, *Diplacodes nebulosa*, *Crocothemis servilia*, *Orthetrum sabina*, *Pseudagrion decorum*, and *Ceriagrion coromandelianum*. They were photographed and identified following Nair (2011). Distributional records of *Agriocnemis splendidissima* from West Bengal State are compiled in Table 1.



Khandarani Lake, Jhargram District, West Bengal, India. 09 October 2019 © Tanmoy Bhowmick.

Bugs R All

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the

References

Anonymous. (2021). *Agriocnemis splendidissima* Laidlaw, 1919 - Splendid Dartlet. In Joshi, S., P. Dawn, P. Roy, and K. Kunte (eds.). *Odonata of India*, v. 1.57. Indian Foundation for Butterflies.
<https://www.indianodonata.org/sp/355/Agriocnemis-splendidissima> (Accessed on 04.vii.2021)

Dawn, P. (2021). Dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata) of West Bengal, an annotated list of species. *Oriental Insects* 55(1): 1–37.

Kalkman, V.J., R. Babu, M. Bedjanic, K. Conniff, T. Gyeltshen, M.K. Khan, K.A. Subramanian, A. Zia & A.G. Orr (2020). Checklist of the dragonflies and damselflies (Insecta: Odonata) of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. *Zootaxa* 4849(1): 1–84.

Khaliq, A. & M. Siddique (1995). Some rice field Odonata in the districts of Poonch and Bagh, Azad Kashmir, Pakistan. *Notulae Odonatologicae* 4(6): 106.

Mitra, T.R. (2002). Geographical distribution of Odonata (Insecta) of eastern India. *Memoirs of Zoological Survey of India* 19(1): 1–208.

Nair, M.V. (2011). *Dragonflies and Damselflies of Orissa and Eastern India*. Wildlife Organisation, Forest and Environment Department, Government of Orissa, 253 pp.

Nair, M.V. & K.A. Subramanian (2014). A new species of *Agriocnemis* Selys, 1869 (Zygoptera: Coenagrionidae) from eastern India with redescription of *Agriocnemis keralensis* (Peter 1981). *Records of Zoological Survey of India* 114(4): 669–679.

Ram, R., V.D. Srivastava & M. Prasad (1982). Odonata (Insecta) fauna of Calcutta and surroundings. *Records of Zoological Survey of India* 80: 169–196.

Singhamahapatra, A. (2020). *Agriocnemis splendidissima*. iNaturalist.org <https://www.iNaturalist.org/observations/65024693> (Accessed on 04.vii.2021)

Srivastava, V.D. & C. Sinha (1993). Insecta: Odonata, pp. 51–168. Fauna of West Bengal, State Fauna Series 3, Part 4. Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata.

Subramanian, K.A. (2018). *Agriocnemis splendidissima* (amended version of 2010 assessment). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species 2018: eT167316A127508550.

Downloaded on 14.vii.2021. <https://doi.org/10.2305/IUCN.UK.2018-1.RLTS.T167316A127508550.en>

Subramanian, K.A., K.G. Emiliyamma, R. Babu, C. Radhakrishnan & S.S. Talmale (2018). Atlas of Odonata (Insecta) of the Western Ghats. Zoological Survey of India, Kolkata, 417 pp.

Acknowledgement: I am thankful to the reviewer for reviewing the manuscript.

Tanmoy Bhowmick

53/E, Thakur Nitya Gopal Road, Panihati, North 24 Parganas, West Bengal 700114, India.
Email: tanmoy97bhowmick@gmail.com

Citation: Bhowmick, T. (2021). A record of Splendid Dartlet from Jhargram District, West Bengal, India. *Bugs R All* #206, In: *Zoo's Print* 36(9): 10–13.

Bugs R All is a newsletter of the Invertebrate Conservation and Information Network of South Asia (ICINSA) published with the financial support of Zoological Society of London.
For communication, Email: zp@zooreach.org

