

## THE SECOND RECORD OF *ANAX PARTHENOPE* SÉLYS (ODONATA:AESHNIDAE) IN SERBIA

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A male of *Anax parthenope* (Sélys, 1839) was taken in Zrenjanin, Banat, on June 5, 1995. This is the second record of the species in Serbia. The scarcity of this species in the S Pannonian Lowlands is discussed.

The authors of the present paper carried out the field examinations of Odonata in the Special Reserve of Nature "Stari Begej - Carska Marsh" near the town of Zrenjanin in Banat, during 1994 and 1995. The purpose of the examinations was to get data of the Odonata species inhabiting the Reserve, and secondly to contribute to our knowledge of the habitat distribution and diversity of the Odonata species in Serbia. The results of the examination will be published elsewhere.

Concurrently with that examination, a trial research was carried out at three lakes lying in the very centre of the town of Zrenjanin (Fig. 1). These lakes were formed artificially by obstructing the old water-course of the river Begej with embankments. One of these lakes has become overgrown with aquatic vegetation due to a relatively shallow water, so that it represents a typical pool habitat.

On June 5, 1995 - in addition to some already known Odonata species - a male of the *Anax* dragonfly species was taken at the pool described briefly. The dragonfly was netted while flying above water along the pool bank. The male specimen was identified in the laboratory as *Anax parthenope* (Sélys, 1839). This is the second record of the species in Serbia (Fig. 2).

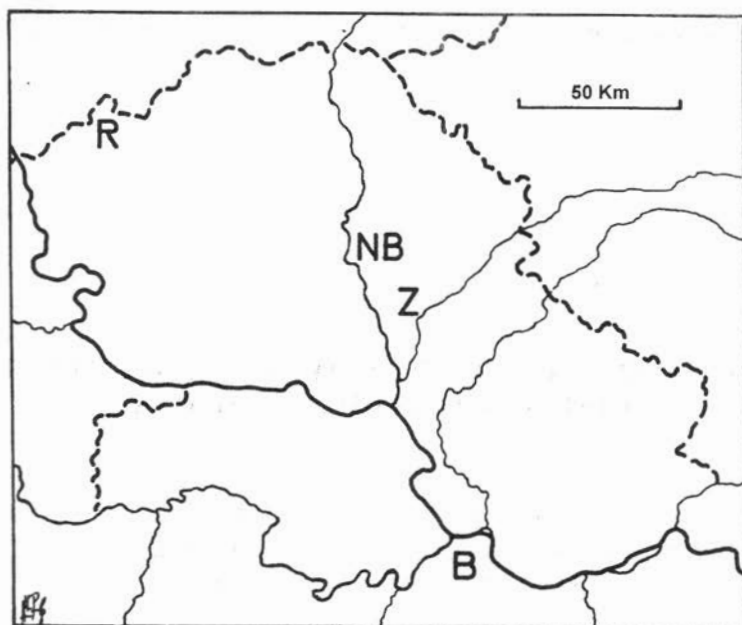


Fig. 1. A sketch map showing the finding - sites of *Anax parthenope* in Serbia. R = Ridjica, Z = Zrenjanin, NB = Novi Bečej, B = Beograd.

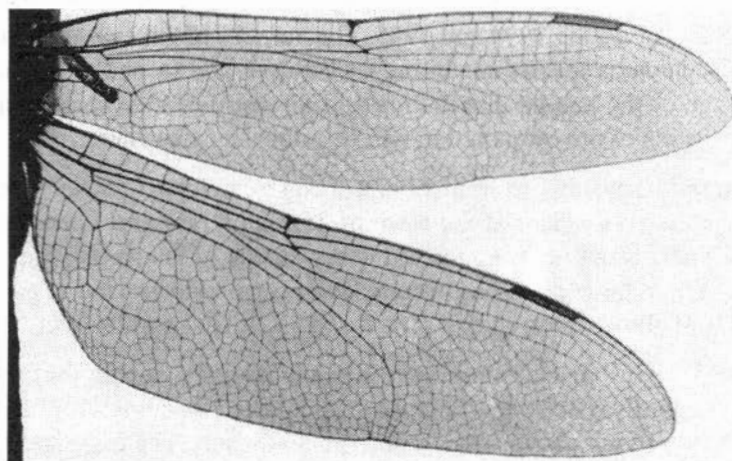


Fig. 2. Right wings of the *Anax parthenope* male taken at Zrenjanin.

A male of *Anax parthenope* (Sélys) was found by FRANKOVIĆ (1990) at the village of Ridjica, situated in N Bačka, near the boundary between Serbia and Hungary (Fig. 1). That was the first record of the species in Serbia.

In addition, *Anax parthenope* has so far been recorded in: Slovenia (KIAUTA, 1961, 1969), Croatia (DUMONT, 1977; FRANKOVIĆ, 1990) and Macedonia (BUCHHOLZ, 1963; KARAMAN, 1981, 1987; and PETERS & HACKETHAL, 1986).

In respect to biogeography, *A. parthenope* is an Asian-Mediterranean species, whose centre of distribution lies in the Mediterranean. It is rare in Central Euopre. *A. parthenope* is confined to the area of standing water.

In the S Pannonian Lowlands, *A. parthenope* seems to have become a rare species due to a drastic decrease in suitable breeding sites in the area. The problem was discussed generally in a paper published recently about the Odonata species in the country surrounding Novi Bečej, a town situated not far from Zrenjanin in Banat (Fig. 1). Large swamps remained in the S Pannonian Lowlands till the 18th century. Huge, long-lasting public works of digging canals for drainage, irrigation and navigation, as well as building embankments started in the Lowlands at the end of the 18th century. Drainage and other activities reclaimed for agriculture a vast part of swamps. However, in that manner, aquatic and marshy vegetation have been restricted to ox-bow lakes, swamps remained, and artificial channels. Consequently, aquatic insects, fish, birds and animals lost an enormous part of their habitats (ADAMOVIĆ & VIJATOV, 1996).

There is another interesting detail. The flight of *A. parthenope* "is not so rapid as that of its larger congener" *A. imperator* "and when males of the two species are at the same pond, territorial *A. imperator* repeatedly harass *A. parthenope* causing them to move continually from one area to another" (ASKEW, 1988).

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ДРУГИ НАЛАЗ ANAX PARTHENOPE SELYS  
(ODONATA: AESHNIDAE) У СРБИЈИ

С. САНТОВАЦ И Љ. АНЂУС

**И з в о д**

Један мужјак врсте *Anax parthenope* (Sélys, 1839) уловљен је на малом, вештачки насталом и забареном језеру у центру Зрењанина у Банату, 5-ог јуна 1995. То је други налаз овог коњица у Србији (Фиг. 1, 2). Врста је први пут нађена код села Риђице у северној Бачкој (FRANKOVIĆ, 1990).

*A. parthenope* је медитеранско-азијска врста, са центром распрострањења у Медитерану. Везана је за стајаће воде. У Средњој Европи је ретка. У јужним деловима Панонске низије ова врста је вероватно постала ретка, услед драстичног смањења њених станишта после исушивања огромних мочвара које су постојале у Низији. Врсту *A. parthenope*, иначе, потискује крупнији и снажнији *Anax imperator* ако се нађу у истом станишту.

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