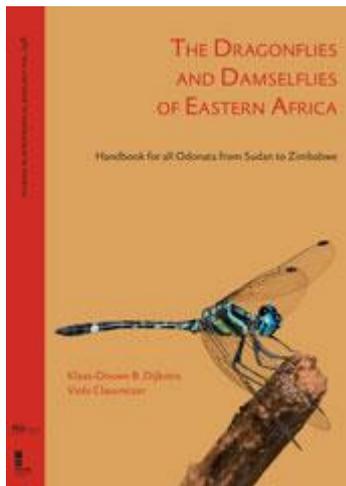


Libellenbücher "Afrika, Australien, Ozeanien"



Dijkstra, Klaas-D & Viola Clausnitzer (2014) The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Eastern Africa. Handbook for all Odonata from Sudan to Zimbabwe Series "Studies in Afrotropical Zoology" n° 298. Published by the Royal Museum for Central Africa, in partnership with Naturalis (Leiden) and the support of JRS Biodiversity Foundation and the German Federal Ministry of Education & Research. 264 Seiten, ca. 360 Farbfotos, über 1000 sw-Abb. Eine Karte sowie einige Tabellen. The authors: KD Dijkstra was the author of the highly successful "Field Guide to the Dragonflies of Britain and Europe". Viola Clausnitzer has been chairwoman of the IUCN Dragonfly Specialist Group for more than ten years.

Few animal groups can represent the greatest (insects) & most threatened (freshwater) biodiversity on earth as well as dragonflies, perhaps the best-known and most colourful of all aquatic insects. Fifteen years in development, *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of eastern Africa* is the first handbook of its extent and detail on tropical Odonata. Extending from Sudan and Somalia to Zambia and Mozambique, including the entire eastern half of the Congo Basin, *The Dragonflies and Damselflies of Eastern Africa* covers a third of Africa, about ten million square kilometres, an area comparable to China or the United States, but treats almost two-thirds of the continent's species. More than 500 species are illustrated with 1 120 original drawings and over 360 colour photographs portraying 320 species. Identification keys to adult males of all species set a new standard for recognising 'the birdwatcher's insects' in Africa, detailed genus descriptions provide the most comprehensive account of their ecology and taxonomy so far, and all species have been furnished with a vernacular English name for the first time. Verified checklists are presented for Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Paperback 35,00 €



Ian Endersby & Heinrich Fliedner (2016) The Naming of Australia's Dragonflies

Review von Albert Orr [agorr@bigpond.com] (veröffentlicht mit Zustimmung der Autoren)

Formal zoological nomenclature follows the binomial system of genus and species originally established by the Swedish biologist Carl Linné, or Linnaeus, in his *Systemae Naturae* of 1758. In principle any animal can be uniquely identified in this way, with the genus invariably being a noun, and the species an adjective or another noun which qualifies the genus. The language chosen for this nomenclature was Latin, at that time the universal language of science, understood by all educated people. Equally important was Classical Greek in its Latinised form.

With changing educational practices, knowledge of even basic Latin has become comparatively rare, knowledge of Greek even more so, hence the scientific names of animals and plants learned by modern biology students have become totally divorced from any meaning, especially among native English speakers and speakers of non-European languages. Whereas Linnaeus' contemporaries would have recognised the gods, demi-gods and heroes of Classical mythology and literature, the modern Lepidopterist who cares to read Homer's *The Iliad* or *The Odyssey*, finds a *dramatis personae* consisting entirely of familiar Swallowtail and Morpho butterflies. In recent times there has been a virtual plethora of books attempting to explain the meanings of Latin and Greek-based Latin names. Many, such as *Latin for Bird Lovers* (Lederer & Burr, 2014) or *The Naming of the Shrew* (Wright, 2014), attempt to entertain as much as to instruct, producing a final result which is somewhat frothy and short on detail. Fortunately odonatologists have been rather better served by scholarly articles

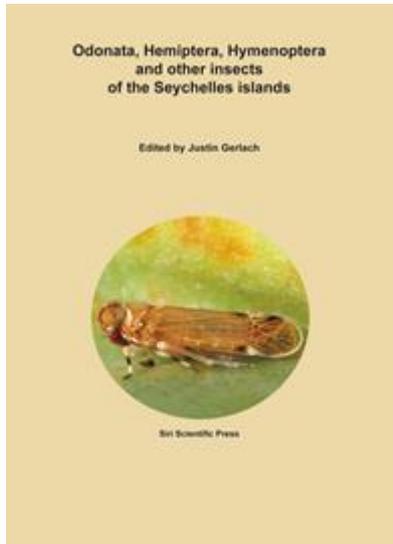
explaining the meanings and origins of dragonfly and damselfly scientific names (e.g. Fliedner 1997, 2006, Endersby 2012) and now these two authors have joined forces to produce 'The Naming of Australian Dragonflies'. This volume, a substantial tome of xiii +278 pages in octavo format, gives us the most comprehensive account we might wish for on the origins and meanings of every available species-group or genus-group name for Australia's dragonflies. These include not only the ca 324 accepted species names and 106 genus names, as well as species such as *Rhinocypha tincta* and *Neurobasis australis* which are not reliably recorded from Australia and are retained in faunal lists out of sheer obstinacy, but also all available synonyms & homonyms, of which there are more than a few.

The book begins with a brief account of the history of the naming of the Australian Odonata, a brief introduction to Latin and Greek prefixes and suffixes and the declensions of the latter and a general discussion of where names come from (people, places, appearance; including colour, pattern, size etc.). There is a detailed tabular breakdown by taxon author of eponyms (named after people, real or legendary) and toponyms (named after a place). The most valuable part of this chapter is the grammatical section. With the odd lapsus (e.g. the topographic suffix, -ensis should be declined: -ensis, -ensis, -ense) this section provides an admirable introduction to the Latin grammar and Greek orthography and the rules for transliteration from Greek to Roman script that are needed to understand how names are formed and modified under gender agreement requirements. I certainly learned a great deal from reading it and while readers unfamiliar with Latin or Greek might find it heavy going, a little effort taken to master these basic rules and to learn the Greek alphabet will be repaid with interest by affording a full understanding of the detailed etymologies which come later.

The next chapter provides engaging and interesting biographies of the 41 individuals who have authored or co-authored an Australian dragonfly genus or species name. These are admirable in their detail, and are generally accompanied by a thumbnail black and white portrait, allowing us to put a face to the name, and serve the very useful purpose of demystifying nomenclature. These names were bestowed by flesh and blood human beings who lived on average a respectable 71.5 ± 11 years, apart from the six who are still with us. Indeed even in cases where I have been long acquainted with the individuals concerned I learned several diverting facts. Quite a few of my own cohort can empathise directly with Gunther Theischinger whose first class education led initially to employment on the railways. The next and largest chapter deals with the individual etymologies of every available species-group or genus-group name ever given to an Australian dragonfly. It is well researched, erudite and complete. Where necessary, extracts from original descriptions in their original language are included (with English translations for non-English texts). For those of us attempting to construct generic names of odonates, this section has much information of relevance far beyond the Australian fauna. It has been a custom among odonatologists to use Greek roots when naming genera and Latin for species-group names. Generally Latin is fairly accessible using a good dictionary, but Greek is a completely different proposition. Even with the fattest Lexicon available a lot of background knowledge is needed to tease out the component roots and it is not difficult to completely misunderstand them. The etymologies in this book do the work for us. Anyone studying dragonfly nomenclature working in any region will find their knowledge vastly expanded and deepened by studying these examples. Of course as earlier authors rarely explained their sources there remain unresolved mysteries and educated guesses. Why did Fabricius write *Aeshna*, not *Aeschna* for example? The authors' explanation that this might have come from him adopting an English style of spelling is the most convincing argument I have heard yet. I was particularly taken by the conjectured meaning for *Aethriamanta* – loving the bright sky. I disagree that *Rhyothemis Braganza* should be regarded as *incertae sedis* (see p. 11, 123, 268) but rather agree with Hämäläinen (2015) that it was named after a Brazilian monarch as a result of a comedy of errors. This however is the only point of difference I can find in the entire book. Some names simply defy decoding – the meanings of both generic and specific names of the common and widespread *Tholymis tillarga* remain unknown. The book includes an extensive main bibliography of 274 entries, in addition to subsidiary reference lists totalling about 150 items in earlier sections. It is rounded off by five appendices, the first three giving comprehensive statistics on authorship and details of the categorisation of names. The most valuable are Appendix four, which establishes the gender of all generic names and Appendix five which gives the rules for transliteration from Greek to the Roman alphabet. I thought I knew these rules, but in fact several important gaps in my knowledge were exposed and have now been filled.

In summary, to anyone with a special interest in zoological etymology or anyone actively involved in zoological nomenclature (i.e. naming new species) I cannot recommend this book too highly. It is well researched, erudite and thorough, with a relevance well beyond Australian shores. Both authors are to be warmly congratulated for having produced such an impressive, informative and useful piece of scholarship. Paperback ca. 29,90 €

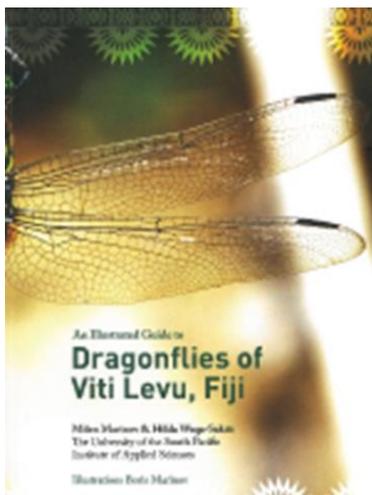
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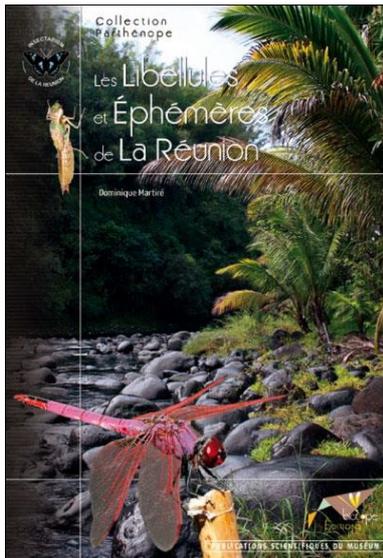
Gerlach, Justin (2013) Odonata, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera and Other Insects of the Seychelles Islands. 400 pages, 4 plates with colour photos; 20 b/w photos, 325 b/w line drawings

The Seychelles islands are biogeographically interesting, with ancient affinities to Africa and Asia, recent colonizing species from the Indo-Pacific and modern introductions. Until recently, relatively little was known about the biodiversity of the islands. This has changed through the publication of a series of monographs on the Seychelles fauna, presenting the latest information on all the terrestrial and freshwater animals of the islands. In this current volume on the Odonata, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera and other insects of the Seychelles islands, 15 expert scientists from nine different countries have provided contributions that cover all 954 species of

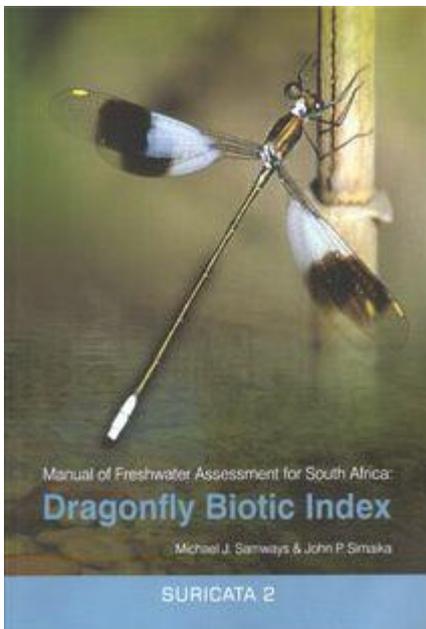
these insect orders and other orders not covered in previous volumes (e.g. Protura, Collembola, Diplura, Microcoryphia, Zygentoma, Thysanoptera, Psocodea, Neuroptera, Siphonaptera and Trichoptera) recorded from the islands. Odonata, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera and Other Insects of the Seychelles Islands includes taxonomic keys, diagnostic illustrations and descriptions for many species, in addition to distribution records and assessments of species conservation status as defined by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Paperback ca. 75 €



Marinov, Milen & Hilda Waqa-Sakiti (2013) An Illustrated Guide to Dragonflies of Viti Levu, Fiji. The book provides a detailed analysis of these fascinating insects, as well as a wonderful introduction to the techniques of identifying them in their natural state. 144 Seiten mit zahlreichen Farbfotos, Farb- und sw-Zeichnungen sowie Verbreitungskarten. Paperback ca. 28 €



Martire, Dominique (2010) Les Libellules et Ephemeres de la Reunion. 72 Seiten. Behandelt 21 Libellenarten. Avec ce livre, volontairement écrit dans un langage clair et illustré de photographies exceptionnelles, Dominique Martiré réalise un document incontournable pour qui veut se familiariser avec les éphémères et les libellules de La Réunion. Ce travail est judicieusement complété par une clé de détermination simplifiée des libellules adultes. Elle permettra aux naturalistes, de pouvoir rapidement reconnaître et nommer les 21 espèces de libellules et les 2 espèces d'éphémères de l'île, sans être obligés de faire appel à un spécialiste. Sa diffusion auprès d'un large public devrait aider à une meilleure perception par les réunionnais et les nombreux visiteurs de passage, du monde merveilleux des insectes des milieux humides. Softcover in franz. Ca. 22 €



Samways, Michael J & John P Simaika (2016) Dragonfly Biotic Index: Manual of Freshwater Assessment for South Africa.

This index is sensitive and robust and is suitable for assessing and monitoring freshwaters across South Africa. This manual explains how to use and apply the Dragonfly Biotic Index, while also providing guidelines for species identification.

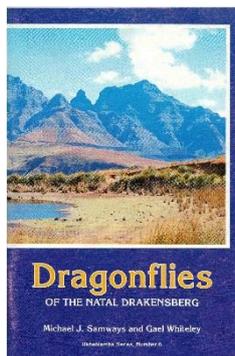
South Africa's 162 sun loving dragonfly species are not only beautiful to watch, but are also helping conservationists, water managers and farmers get to grips with the state of local freshwater sources, such as rivers, streams and dams. To show how this can be done, two Stellenbosch University (SU) researchers have written a new book which sets out how these insects can be used as freshwater monitors. The new 224-page full colour Manual of Freshwater Assessment for South Africa: Dragonfly Biotic Index is written and compiled by Prof. Michael Samways, renowned insect conservationist of the

SU Department of Conservation Ecology and Entomology, and water ecologist Dr. John Simaika, a research fellow in the SU Department of Soil Science. "Using dragonflies in freshwater assessments is so simple, because they are relatively easy to identify," says Prof Samways. "All you need is a good guide, a pair of close-focus binoculars, and a sunny day." "Books such as this one are a great starting point for getting people to care about something. If only one in ten readers were to think more deeply about freshwater conservation, then we will have done a good job," adds Dr Simaika. "I hope it will also encourage people already working in the water sector, particularly in the water resource arena, to think differently about freshwater biodiversity conservation, which all too often takes a back seat to providing water for human uses."

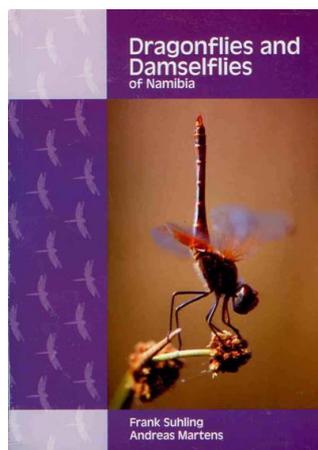
The manual, which contains full-colour photographs and line drawings, can also be used as a field guide to locate and identify dragonfly species. Many of the photographs were taken by the authors themselves during the course of their research work on dragonflies, a broad term used for the true and familiar dragonflies as well as the small and usually more slender and delicate damselflies. Dr Simaika describes the book as an easy read. "It is easily accessible, as anyone can download it, print it or share it, anywhere in the world," he notes. Paperback ca. 50 €



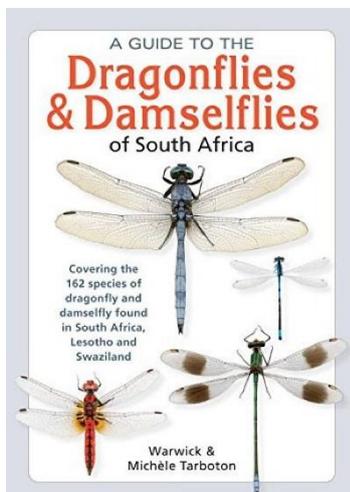
Samways, M. 2008. The Dragonflies & Damselflies of South Africa. Pensoft Series Faunistica 66 Pensoft Publishers, Sofia-Moscow, ca 300 Seiten 14,5 cm x 21 cm, full-color guide with excellent photos, index, references. Softcover ca. 55 €



Samways, MJ & G Whiteley (1998) Dragonflies of the Natal Drakensberg. Published by University of Natal Press in RSA 78 Seiten 21 cm x 14 cm 36 Farb- und zahlreiche sw Abbildungen. The sixth book in the "Ukhahlamba" series on the natural history of the Drakensberg. With this guide on South African dragonflies, these insects should be easily identified in the Berg and other parts of the country. Paperback ca 15 €



Suhling, Frank & Andreas Martens (2007) Dragonflies & Damselflies of Namibia. 280 pages, 174 photos, 27 plates with line drawings, 125 distribution maps. Paperback The diversity of dragonflies & damselflies in Namibia is surprisingly high for such an arid country. This book describes 127 species recorded in Namibia & their distribution range, habitat, ecology & behaviour. It covers not only Namibian species but also of Botswana & Angola, 149 species in total. Paperback ca 25 €



Tarboton, Warwick (2015) A Guide to the Dragonflies & Damselflies of South Africa. 216 pages and 400 colour photos. This field guide to all the dragonflies and damselflies of South Africa – a total of 162 species – addresses a growing area of interest and fills the gap left by two previous books on the topic, now both out of print. A detailed introduction covers behavior, life cycles, biology and breeding; and the species entries focus on identification and distribution, with all species photographed from scans of actual insects, beautifully presented in full color. Comprehensive and fully up to date, this extraordinary study of dragonflies and damselflies of the region will be snapped up by anyone with an interest in the insect life of the region. Paperback ca. 23 €

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