



Discovery of a new species of the genus *Planaeschna* from Northern Vietnam, with a first description of male *P. tomokunii*

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Abstract

A new species of *Planaeschna* McLachlan, *P. guentherpetersi* sp. nov. (holotype male and paratype female) from Phu Tho province, northern Vietnam, is described and illustrated. In addition, the male of *P. tomokunii* Asahina, 1996, which was known from only the holotype female, is described for the first time, based on newly collected material of both sexes, from the type locality, Tam Dao, Vinh Phuc province, northern Vietnam.

Key Words: Odonata, *Planaeschna*, Vietnam, new species

Introduction

Historically, records of *Planaeschna* species from Vietnam have been sparse until near the end of the last century. The first was reported by Asahina (1996), who described two new species (*P. tamdaoensis*, 1996 and *P. tomokunii*, 1996) from Tam Dao, Vinh Phuc province, N. Vietnam. Subsequently, by recent enthusiastic investigations, the unexpected richness of the diversity in this genus has rapidly been uncovered in Vietnam as well as the region from Indochina to southern China. Presently, from Vietnam, at least seven species of *Planaeschna* are known; *P. asahinai*, 2011, *P. bachmaensis*, 2002, *P. cucphuongensis*, 1999, *P. owadai*, 2002, *P. tamdaoensis*, *P. tomokunii*, and *P. viridis*, 2004, several unidentified or not officially recorded species, e.g. recently *P. chiengmaiensis* Asahina, 1981 was discovered from southern Vietnam, although this record was previously unpublished. One of the reasons species of this genus remained undiscovered for so long was presumably because of their crepuscular activity pattern, flying swiftly in shady forest habitats with well-camouflaged maculation.

During our ongoing odonatological surveys in Vietnam, an unrecorded *Planaeschna* species was discovered from Xuan Son district (Nature Reserve), Phu Tho province, which, after careful examination, appeared to be new to science. It is described as a new species in this paper. In addition, the male of *P. tomokunii* is described, which was for the first time obtained from the type locality, Tam Dao, Vinh Phuc province. This species was described by Asahina (1996), based only on a single female holotype, and there have been neither additional records nor any record of the male after the original description.

Descriptions

Planaeschna guentherpetersi sp. nov.

(Figs. 1–10)

Material examined. Holotype: male, Xuan Son (21°09'N, 104°56'E), alt. 450 m, Thanh Son distr., Phu Tho prov., Vietnam, Do Cuong leg., 15. XI. 2010. Paratype: 1 female, same data as holotype. The type specimens will be deposited in the Vietnam National Museum of Nature.