



## The last-stadium larva and systematic status of *Planaeschna suichangensis* Zhou & Wei, 1980 (Odonata: Anisoptera: Aeshnidae)

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### Abstract

The final stadium larva of *Planaeschna suichangensis* is described and illustrated. Its larval morphological characters indicate that *P. suichangensis* is a valid species closer to *P. risi* than to *P. taiwana*.

**Key words:** Odonata, Aeshnidae, *Planaeschna suichangensis*, larva, systematic status

### Introduction

*Planaeschna suichangensis* Zhou and Wei is an aeshnid dragonfly from southern China (Zhejiang, Fujian, Guangdong and Guangxi) originally described from a pair by Zhou and Wei (1980) and later redescribed by Karube (2002) and Wilson (2005). In this paper, we describe and illustrate the final stadium larva of this species based on a full-grown larva as well as its corresponding exuvia after emergence of the adult. The larva was collected in the field, reared, measured and photographed in laboratory, and its identification confirmed by the adult that emerged. The larval cast skin provided the basis for the description of the morphological characters of the larva.

### Description of the larva of *Planaeschna suichangensis* Zhou & Wei, 1980

(Figs. 1–8)

**Specimens studied.** One last-stadium larva and one corresponding exuvia after emergence of adult—1 male, Zhangzhou (24°38'N, 117°31'E), 03.V.2010, leg. XU Q.-H., emerged 04.VI.2010. Last-stadium larva was observed and photographed, and exuvia is deposited in Department of Biological and Environmental Engineering, Zhangzhou City University.

**Description of last-stadium larva.** General appearance and color pattern as shown in Fig. 8.

**Head:** broad and flat, pentagonal in shape, dark brown with black markings. Compound eyes large, protruding anterolaterally. Postocular lobe (Fig. 1) rounded, covered with numerous fine bristles. Antenna (Fig. 2) 7-segmented, filiform, slightly longer than the distance between the two antennae; segments 1–2 (scape and pedicel) thickened, segments 3–7 slender, elongate and tapering. Prementum (Figs. 3, 4) large, longer than wide, in a ratio of 1.3:1, extending posteriorly to the level between procoxae and mesocoxae; median lobe prominent, with a V-shaped cleft, and each apical projection armed with a small acuminate tooth; anterior margin of median lobe covered with dense pale brown hairs; lateral lobe broad at base, gradually narrowing towards apex, its basal outer margin bearing numerous minute spines; inner margin of internal lobe furnished with about 18 square-shaped serrations; end hook curved medially at apex, its tip acuminate; movable hook long and acuminate, about twice the length of end hook.