



A Revision of *Mesopodagrion* McLachlan, 1896 (Odonata: Zygoptera: Megapodagrionidae)

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Abstract

A synopsis of *Mesopodagrion* including diagnostic illustrations, distribution maps, and keys to all taxa incorporates the following taxonomic changes: *Mesopodagrion yachowensis* Chao, 1953 is resurrected from synonymy, *Mesopodagrion tibetanum* McLachlan, 1896 comprises two subspecies, one new *M. tibetanum australe* and a unique character for the genus, the bifurcate process on distal dorsum of S10 of the male.

Key words: Odonata, Megapodagrionidae, *Mesopodagrion*, revision

Introduction

Mesopodagrion was established by McLachlan (1896) to accommodate his unique species *Mesopodagrion tibetanum* from Moupin (now, Baoxing, Sichuan province), China. He diagnosed his new species from *Argiolestes* Selys and all Old-World forms of the légion [Podagrion] by "...wings ceasing to be petiolated before the basal postcostal nervule" and "postcostal area with one row of cellules." In his key to genera, Needham (1930) separated *Mesopodagrion* (one row of cells behind CuA), based on the original description, from a series of *Philosina buchi* Ris, 1917 (2–3 rows of cells behind CuA). Fraser (1933) redescribed *M. tibetanum* from a series collected at the type locality, and provided figures of caudal appendages and genital ligula. Fraser (1933) thought the male in life to be blue rather than apple-green in preserved specimens. Lieftinck (1948) observed specimens from Shaanxi, China, to be larger than those from northeast of Burma, believed *M. tibetanum* to be more widely distributed than previously known and suggested division into subspecies. Chao (1953) described *M. yachowensis* from Beh-Luh-Din and Chin Chi Shien, both near Yachow (now, Ya'an, Sichuan, China) based on comparison with descriptions and figures from Fraser (1933). Asahina (1955) compared specimens from Southern Shaanxi and Zhejiang provinces, China, with the syntypes of *M. tibetanum* in the British Museum and noted that 'the pale pattern of the types are more extended than those from Shaanxi and Zhejiang' and noted the bifurcate process on the distal dorsum of S10 for the male. He believed Fraser's (1933) illustrations failed to include the bifurcate process and further disagreed with Fraser's suggestion of blue coloration for the species in life. Asahina (1955) quoting Lieftinck (1948) who stated that specimens from South Shaanxi did not differ structurally or in size from more westerly specimens, noted size discrepancies of his specimens from type material in the BMNH. Chao (1987) treated *M. yachowensis* as a junior synonym of *M. tibetanum* ascribing his error to "...lack of experience and the misleading by Fraser's inaccurate drawing to the apex of abdomen and penile organ." He provided a complete bibliography and distribution for *M. tibetanum*, and noted that the type locality, 'eastern Tibet', is actually located in Sichuan province, China. He suggested excluding Xizang (Tibet) from the distributional list of *M. tibetanum*. Based on examination of published literature and a number of specimens, species limits within this poorly-known genus