



***Matrona taoi* spec. nov., a new damselfly species from northern Vietnam (Odonata: Calopterygidae)**

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Abstract

Matrona taoi Phan & Hämäläinen, **spec. nov.** (holotype ♂, from Vietnam, Phu Tho province, Xuan Son National Park, Xom Coi, alt. 442 m, 15 xi 2010, deposited in Vietnam National Museum of Nature, Hanoi) is described from both sexes, illustrated and compared with other species in the genus.

Key word: Odonata, Calopterygidae, *Matrona*, new species, Vietnam, Xuan Son

Introduction

Vietnam, Laos and the southern provinces of China (south of 30° N) constitute a ‘hotspot’ of calopterygid diversity. About 1/3rd of the world’s known species of this family (in the strict sense, excluding hetaeriniids) are represented in this area. In Vietnam there occur several enigmatic species. The rarest among them is the large, probably generically misplaced *Echo maxima* Martin, which is still known only from a single female specimen taken in Lang Son province (Martin 1904). This species seems to be related to the two known *Archineura* species, the giants among the Demoiselles, found only in this faunal region. Another unusual and rare Vietnamese calopterygid is the recently discovered *Noguchiphaea mattii* Do, 2008 from the southern Khanh Hoa province.

During a visit to Xuan Son national park in Phu Tho province in northern Vietnam in December 2009, the first author discovered a *Matrona* species new to science, providing yet more evidence of the remarkable diversity of the Vietnamese fauna. Further specimens were collected at the same locality in November 2010.

This new species brings the total number of Calopterygidae recorded from Vietnam to 18 species (Do & Tang 2007, Do 2008, Phan & al. 2011).

***Matrona taoi* Phan & Hämäläinen, spec. nov.**

(Figs. 1–7)

Material. Holotype ♂: Vietnam, Phu Tho province, Tan Son district, Xuan Son National Park, Xom Coi, (21°06'56.6"N, 104°57'27.4"E), elevation 442 m, 15 xi 2010, Phan Quoc Toan leg. Holotype to be deposited in Vietnam National Museum of Nature (VNMN), Hanoi.

Paratypes: 1 ♂, 3 ♀, same locality as for holotype, 07 xii 2009, Phan Quoc Toan leg.; 2 ♂, 4 ♀, same locality as for holotype, 15 xi 2010, Phan Quoc Toan and Do Manh Cuong leg.). Paratypes are deposited in the authors’ collections; 2 ♂, 2 ♀ in coll. Hämäläinen, the rest in coll. Phan.

Etymology. The species is named after Mr Nguyen Thien Tao (Biology Department, Vietnam National Museum of Nature) as a token of gratitude for his friendly support of the first author’s field work and research activity.