

A Record of *Orthetrum caledonicum* feeding on another dragonfly.—

This record is based on observations made on 14 April 1979 at the Wooramel River, about 156 miles (250 km) ESE of Carnarvon, Western Australia (25°47'S, 115°58'E). About 1000 hrs (WST) a large blue dragonfly *Orthetrum caledonicum* (Brauer), apparently common in the area, was observed in flight grasping with its legs another dragonfly (*Diplacodes haematodes* (Burmeister)). The blue dragonfly landed upon an *Acacia* bush, settled for a few seconds, took flight again and landed on another *Acacia* plant. After *O. caledonicum* severed the head of its prey, it proceeded to feed on the softer material of the thorax. The crushing of mandibles against the chitinous thorax of the prey was audible for about 1.5 metres (5 ft). Shortly after, the individual of *O. caledonicum* ceased feeding and took flight again with the remaining body of *D. haematodes*. During the course of observations, the photograph below was able to be taken (Fig. 1). We find this record of interest since there appears to be little published information on the prey of Australian dragonflies.

—M. PETERSON and T. J. HAWKESWOOD.



Fig. 1.—*Orthetrum caledonicum* feeding on another dragonfly (*Diplacodes haematodes*) at the Wooramel River, W.A. (Photograph by M. Peterson).



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