

A survey of odonate assemblages associated with selected wetland localities in southern Sri Lanka

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ABSTRACT

The dragonflies and damselflies are a major insect group (Class Insecta; Order Odonata) associated with water courses. Odonate assemblages with reference to their habitat characters have not been widely studied in Sri Lanka. We have investigated odonate assemblages for a period of three months in selected localities in southern Sri Lanka with reference to the habitat characters. Bundala and Embillakala lagoons in Bundala National Park (A Ramsar wetland in Sri Lanka), “Kiral Kele” Eco-tourism Zone-Matara, Bandaththara marshland system-Matara, “Kiral Kele” Biological Garden-Ambalanthota and Kosgahadola stream which belongs to Mulatiyana Rain forest reserve were selected as study sites since these sites are important in conservation of biodiversity. A total of 28 species were identified during the study period. Our data reveals odonate assemblages specific to the studied habitats such as bushlands, marshlands, lagoons, flowing water bodies, stagnant water bodies and vegetation type (wet zone and dry zone). These data will be useful in future studies and conservation of biodiversity in the studied habitats.

Key words: Odonates, Assemblage patterns, Habitat characters, Vegetation