

First record of *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys, 1840) (Odonata: Libellulidae) for the Sal Island, Cape verde

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Abstract: *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys, 1840) is recorded for first time from Sal island of the Cape Verde archipelago. *Crocothemis erythraea* is recorded too.

Key Words: Odonata, Libellulidae, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*, Cape Verde islands.

Primera cita de *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys, 1840) (Odonata: Libellulidae) para la isla de Sal, Cabo Verde

Resumen: *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys, 1840) se cita por primera vez para isla de Sal, Cabo Verde. También se cita *Crocothemis erythraea*.

Palabras Clave: Odonata, Libellulidae, *Sympetrum fonscolombii*, islas de Cabo Verde.

The Cape Verde is a volcanic archipelago situated in the Atlantic Ocean ($14^{\circ} 23' - 17^{\circ} 12'$ N / $22^{\circ} 40' - 25^{\circ} 22'$ W) at approximately 450 km of the western coast of Senegal, Africa. The archipelago is composed of ten islands, of which Sal is the third smallest (216 km^2) and the most arid. Climatic differences (e.g. long periods of drought, dry winds blowing from Sahara desert), and use of inefficient techniques for water storage and supply, in relation to other Cape Verde and Macaronesian islands, are expected to influence the abundance of Odonata species and their habitats. The dragonfly checklist of Cape Verde islands include 11 dragonfly species, whose presence in each island was published by García et al. (2005). On the Sal island only *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé, 1832) is recorded.

The present paper deals with dragonfly records obtained during a short visit to Sal.

In the garden of Hotel Riu Funana, ($16^{\circ} 35'$ N, $22^{\circ} 55'$ W, Ponta Negra, Santa Maria, Sal island) one male of *Sympetrum fonscolombii* (Selys, 1840) and two females of *Crocothemis erythraea* were observed flying between 17-23.XII.2007. *S. fonscolombii* specimen was captured, identified, photographed and then released. *C. erythraea* specimens were resting on young plantation trees, were identified, but not captured, and were observed flying in the garden. In general, both species were flying very fast into the garden, near the swimming pool and/or water source. This is the first record of *Sympetrum* Newman, 1873 to the Sal island.

Sympetrum fonscolombii is a strong migrant, with Subtropical origin. It is widely distributed in warm parts of Europe, Africa and Asia, breeding in diverse standing waters (Dijkstra & Lewington, 2006). In Macaronesian archipelagos, *S. fonscolombii* is in the checklists of Azores, Madeira and Canary islands (Báez & Martín, 2004; Borges, 2005), and it is present in Santiago island of Cape

Verde (García et al., 2005). *Crocothemis erythraea* had been recorded from Canary Islands (Báez & Martín, 2004) and Santo Antão, São Vicente, Brava and Sal islands in Cape Verde (García et al., 2005).

Sympetrum fonscolombii is known from the Sal island only from this single specimen. More specific fieldwork will be needed to determine whether a population exists in Sal or this individual was a vagrant, actively migrating or passive transported specimen from other Cape Verde islands, Europe or Africa.

I thank to Antonio Torralba critical review and some comments introduced in this note.

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