

Dragonflies of the Middle East

Contents

Title	Page Nos
<i>Anax ephippiger</i> in Yemen	2 – 3
<i>Epallage fatime</i> in Kurdistan	4

***Anax ephippiger* in Yemen**

This highly migratory dragonfly is common in the Middle east where it breeds in shallow (often temporary) lakes. In Spring 2011 there was an invasion of this insect in UK and good numbers could be seen along the coast from Devon through to Dorset.

The following pictures by Richard Porter show the features of this insect well.



At first sight this species looks as if it could be confused with *Anax parthenope* which could occur in similar habitats.

This view shows how dark this insect can be

The photos below identify the species clearly



Both shots show the light green sides to the thorax and the blue patch on top of abdominal segment two. In *Anax parthenope* the blue patch extends right around the abdomen and the sides of the thorax are much darker.



This great shot shows a pair in tandem with the female ovipositing. The male blue patch is clear whereas in the female the patch is greatly reduced.

The first three pictures were taken on Socotra which is a small island off the coast of Yemen near the mouth of the Gulf of Aden.

The last picture of the ovipositing pair was taken in Yemen

***Epallage fatime* in Kurdistan**

This strange large damselfly looks and behaves like a dragonfly. It is very robust with dragonfly like body and often rests with its wings open. It is the only representative in the western Palearctic of the family Euphaeidae.

It is a stream specialist and Richard Porter took these pictures in April 2011 on rocky streams near Sulimaniyah in northern Iraq



Top left – a male starting to develop the blue pruinescence which eventually covers the fully adult insect. Top right – a newly emerged male. Bottom left an immature male.