

EUROPEAN INVERTEBRATE SURVEY

PROVISIONAL ATLAS  
OF THE  
INSECTS OF THE BRITISH ISLES

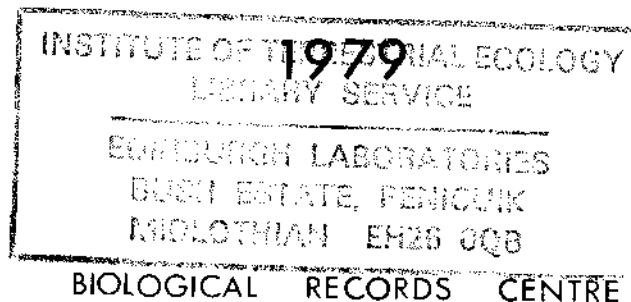
Part 7

ODONATA

Dragonflies

Edited by D. G. CHELMICK

SECOND EDITION



Institute of Terrestrial Ecology,  
Monks Wood Experimental Station,  
Huntingdon

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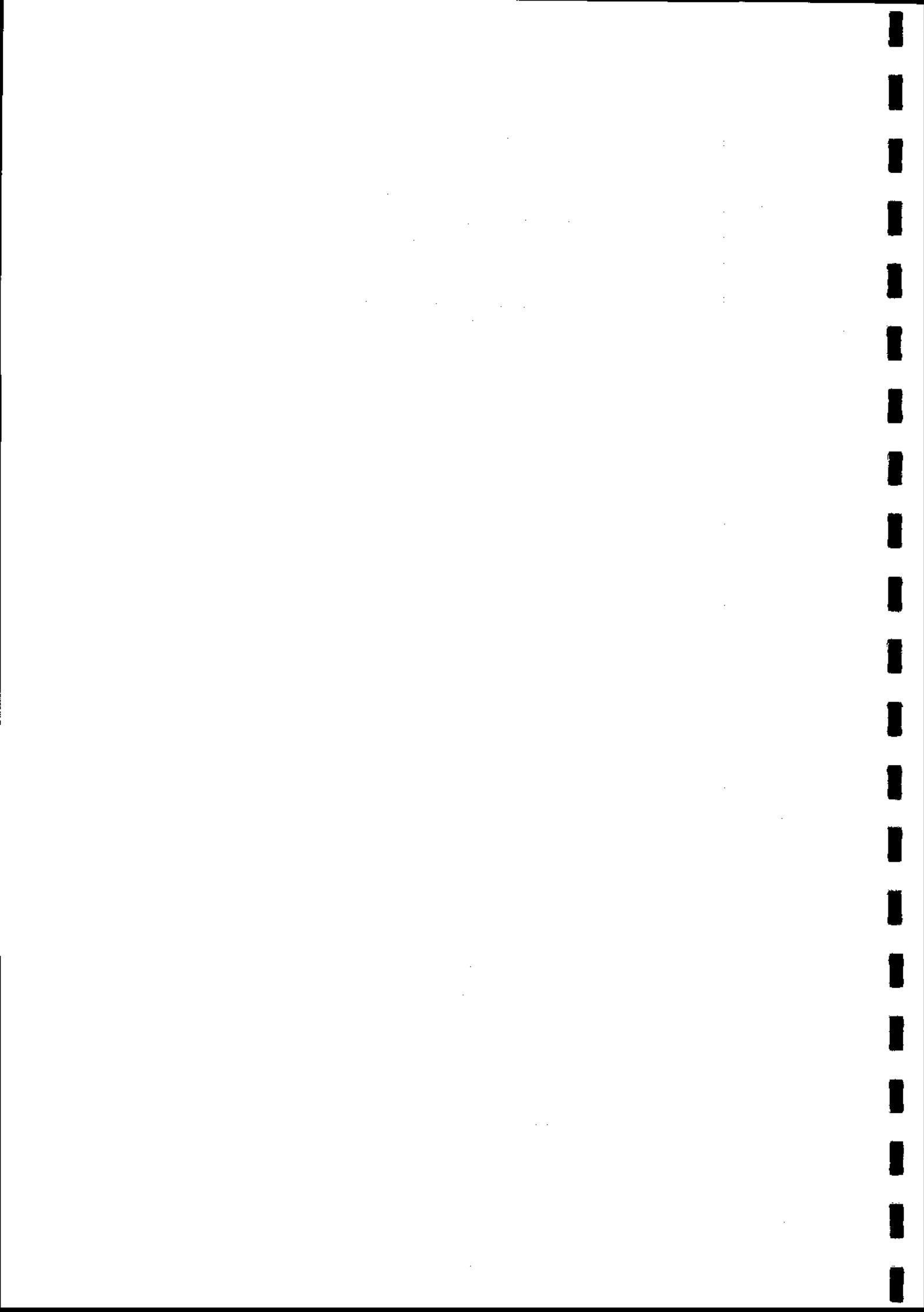
## FOREWORD

The first edition of the Provisional Atlas of the Odonata of the British Isles was compiled when the organisation of the recording scheme passed from the Biological Records Centre to Mr D G Chelwick. We are grateful to Mr Chelwick for providing and editing the additional data included in this, the second edition of the Provisional Atlas.

The maps included in this atlas were prepared under contract to the Nature Conservancy Council as part of its programme of research into nature conservation.

Monks Wood  
July, 1979

John Heath  
Paul T Harding  
General Editors



## INTRODUCTION

Much additional information has been obtained since the preparation of the first edition of the 7th part (Odonata) of the Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles in May 1977 (Heath, 1978). With the need to reprint this part, the opportunity has been taken to prepare a completely revised second edition which includes all records received up to the end of December 1978. An increase of 40% in total records has occurred in this time. There is clearly an ever-growing interest in Odonata in Britain, but considerable work remains to be done to complete coverage of Britain and Ireland.

Early records for Ireland have been summarised by Ni Lamhna (1978), but recent records have been based largely on data provided by visiting British recorders. However, Ireland has considerable potential for Odonata recording: for example, *Anax imperator*, a large conspicuous hawker dragonfly, was recorded for the first time in 1975, and in 1978, Dr N W Moore found *Lestes dryas* in a number of localities; this latter species is now considered to be extinct in Britain.

### Nomenclature

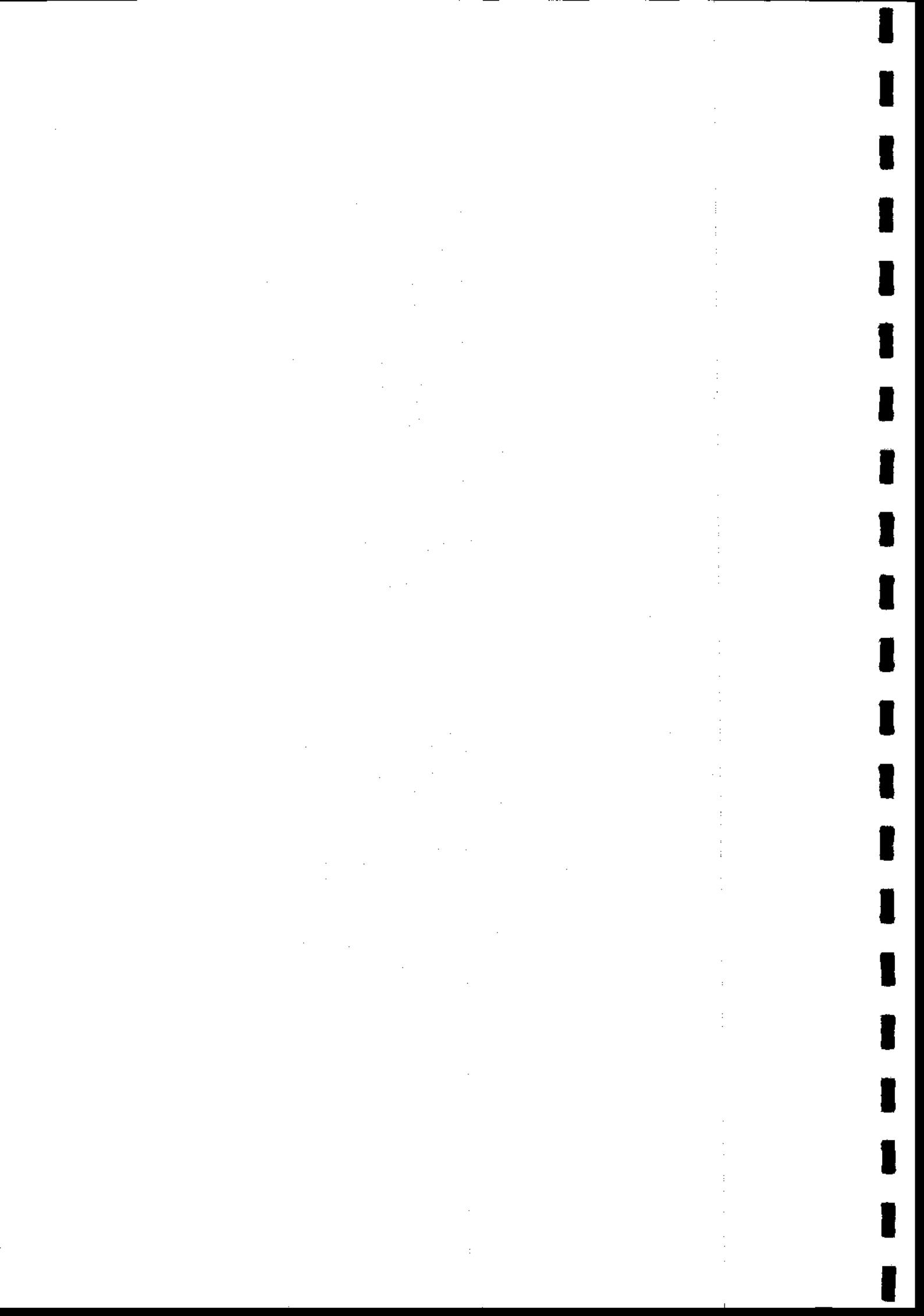
In accordance with the policy of the International Society of Odonatology (S.I.O.), the generic name *Agrion* has been amended to the more internationally accepted alternative, *Calopteryx*. Similarly, the name *Sympetrum danae* (Sulzer) replaces *S. scoticum* (Leach). Other minor amendments have also been incorporated, following Belle (1978).

### The British Isles List

Historically, three rare vagrant *Sympetrum* spp., *S. flaveolum*, *S. fonscolombei* and *S. vulgatum*, are always included on the British Isles List. For that reason they are included in the maps. However, three additional vagrant species deserve mention: *Hemianax ephippiger* (Burm) was last recorded as recently as 1974 from Kent, *Gomphus flavipes* (Charpentier) was one of the earliest recorded species in Britain, being found in Sussex by J F Stephens in 1818, and a specimen of *Somatochloa alpestris* (Selys) was probably collected in Scotland by K J Morton in the early part of this century.

Four additional species *Sympetrum fusca* (Vander Linden), *Lestes barbarus* (Fabricius), *L. viridis* (Vander Linden) and *Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé) must also be considered, as they have been recorded from the Channel Islands which are politically, if not biologically, part of the British Isles.

This brings the total British Isles List to 51 species, comprising 38 breeding species, (*Lestes dryas* probably now only in Ireland), three extinct species (*Coenagrion armatum*, *C. scitulum* and *Oxygastra curtisii*) and ten vagrant species as described above. Maps are included in this Atlas for all except the seven additional vagrants mentioned above.



## Acknowledgements

I would like to thank all those who have submitted records, particularly Local Recorders and Records Centres, who have taken over much of the burden of organising the survey regionally.

Special thanks are due to Bill and Bob Merritt, who abstracted and plotted all the additional records received in the past two years. Without their efforts this revision would never have been possible.

Finally, I would like to thank John Heath and Paul Harding of the Biological Records Centre for their co-operation and particularly their patience and understanding during the preparation of this second edition.

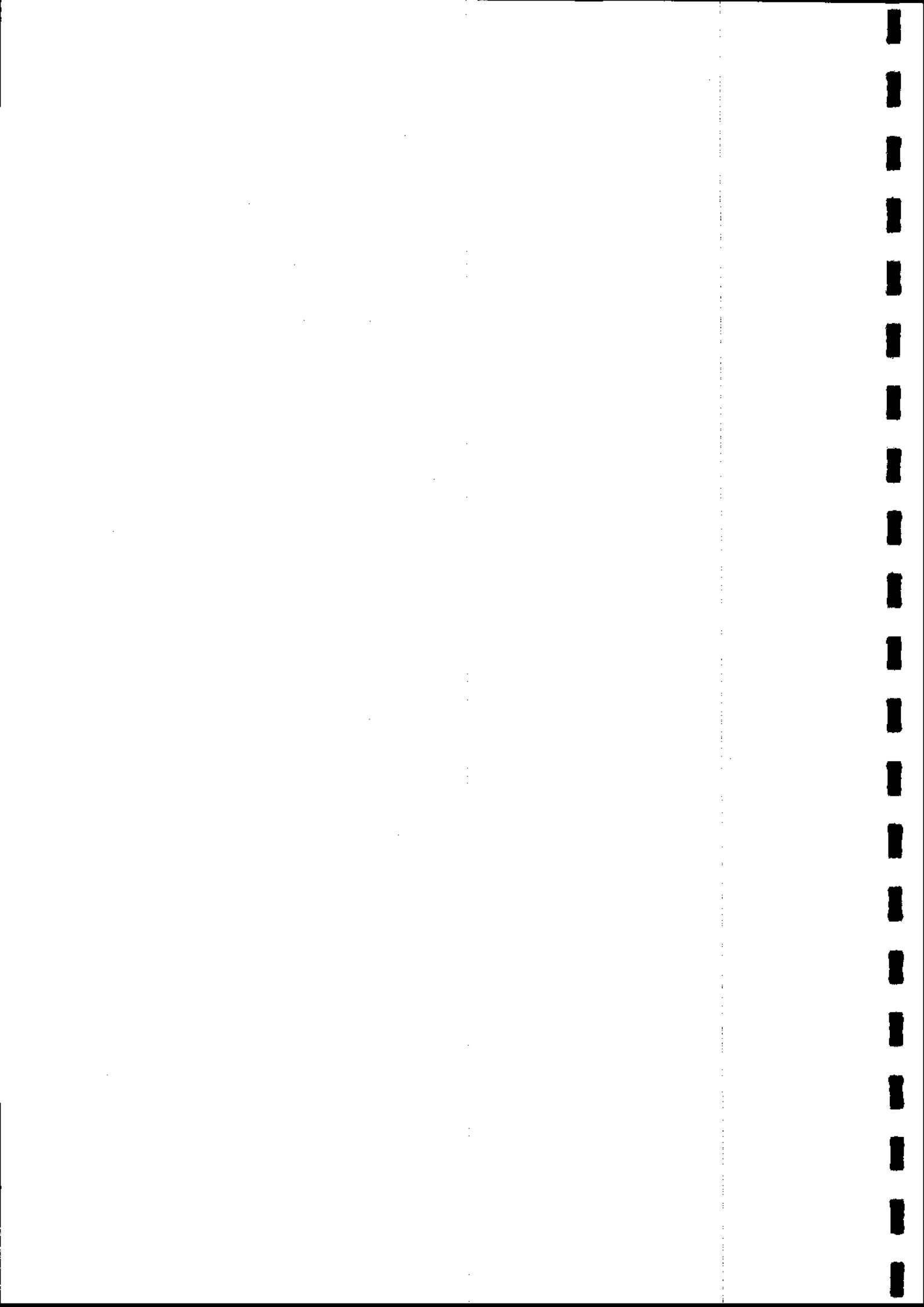
## Future records

All correspondence, enquiries and records should be submitted to:

David Chelwick  
"Bredon"  
High Beech Lane  
Haywards Heath  
Sussex.

## References

- Belle, J. 1978. Review: C.O. Hammond "The dragonflies of Great Britain and Ireland". *Notulae Odonatologicae*, 1 (2), 31-32.
- Heath, J. (editor) 1978. *Provisional Atlas of the Insects of the British Isles Part 7, Odonata*, Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Huntingdon.
- Ni Lamhna, E. (editor) 1978. *Provisional Atlas of the Dragonflies of Ireland* (2nd Edn). An Foras Forbartha, Dublin.





SPECIES	MAP NUMBER
<i>Somatochlora arctica</i> (Zetterstedt)	30
<i>Somatochlora metallica</i> (Vander Linden)	31
<i>Sympetrum danae</i> (Sulzer)	42
<i>Sympetrum flaveolum</i> (L.)	38
<i>Sympetrum fonscolombii</i> Selys	39
<i>Sympetrum nigrescens</i> Lucas	40
<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i> (Müller)	41
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i> (Charpentier)	43
<i>Sympetrum vulgatum</i> (L.)	44

