

Odonata (Dragon- and Damselflies)

Family and Species Listings

Australia has a diverse dragon- and damselfly fauna with over 300 species in 17 families, 111 species in the Zygoptera (Damselflies) and 203 species in the Epiproctophora (Dragonflies) (Hawking and Theischinger 1999).

Both larvae and adults of the odonates are predators. The larvae live in a wide range of aquatic habitats from fresh to saline waters and from fast flowing water to pools and stationary waters. They live for several months to several years in the aquatic habitat and then emerge as adults. Unlike the mayflies the adult odonates are predatory and feed on smaller insects which they capture in flight. Detailed description of the biology of this group can be found in Watson *et al.* (1991) and the conservation status of this group can be found in Hawking (1999).

Only eight families (16 species) of the odonates were included in this study



Epiproctophora (Dragonflies)

Family Aeschnidae

- ▶ *Notoaeschna geminata*

Family Austrocorduliidae

- ▶ *Lathrocordulia metallica*

Family Gomphidae

- ▶ *Armogomphus armiger*
- ▶ *Austrogomphus collaris*
- ▶ *Austrogomphus guerini*
- ▶ *Austrogomphus ochraceus*
- ▶ *Hemigomphus gouldi*

Family Hemicorduliidae

- ▶ *Austrocordulia leonardi*

Family Libellulidae

- ▶ *Diplacodes bipunctata*
- ▶ *Diplacodes haematodes*
- ▶ *Orthetrum caledonicum*

Family Synthemistidae

- ▶ *Archaeosynthemis leachi*
- ▶ *Archeosynthemis occidentalis*

Family Telephlebiidae

- ▶ *Austroaeschna anacantha*

Zygoptera (Damselflies)

Family Coenagrionidae

- ▶ *Ischnura heterosticta*
- ▶ *Xanthagrion erythroneurum*