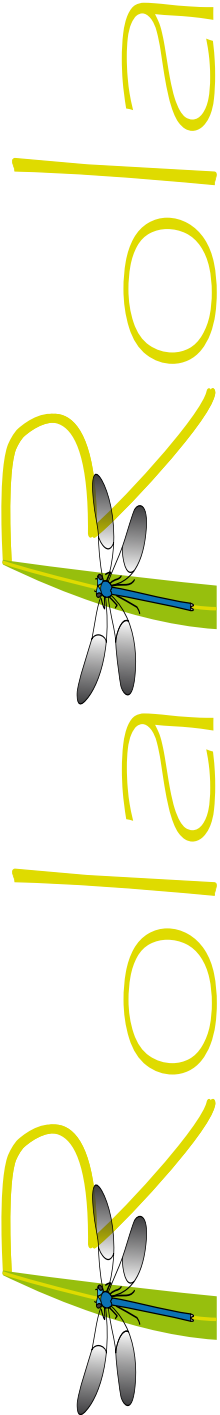




## EDITORIAL

Three very important papers in this issue. It is hard to believe that one of the most important wetland habitats in Europe and a key Ramsar site has never had a comprehensive survey of its dragonflies. The survey published here gives cause for concern as there appears to be a considerable reduction in species in recent years. Dragonflies are key indicators and I emphasise the need stressed in the paper for more research in this most important wetland.

It is very encouraging to see that *Macromia splendens* is now established as an Algarve species; the habitat certainly looks perfect. You need to go back only as far as the late 1980s when the status of this species in Spain and Portugal was known only from historical records. In the 1990s observers like Adolfo Cordero, Rudolf Malkmus and myself established its presence and since then there have been an explosion of records which indicate that the western and central parts of the Iberian peninsular



are probably the most important areas for this European endemic. The Algarve is an area with important wetland habitats and well known to the British. It is to be hoped that, encouraged by the rare species outlined here, more field workers, perhaps even some from UK, will visit and contribute to ROLA.

Finally, some very interesting information from MNCN-CSIC. The specimens examined were collected from Central and Southern Spain and one of the commonest species found was *Ischnura elegans*. Askew in 1988, just 25 years ago and taking published information available at that time concluded that this species did not exist in Iberia. How things have changed.

What has happened in the last 25 years is an awakening of interest and recording in Iberian Odonata; but there is still so much to do. Let me set ROLA a goal. The Atlas of Dragonflies of Britain and Ireland has just been published (Cham et al 2014); it is based upon more one million records. Andalucía is 25% of the area of UK and Ireland. A quarter of a million records must be the aim for the next ROLA atlas. If you like recording and feel that much of Europe is well studied there is so much scope for you in Iberia. Good hunting and let's get those records flowing.

David Chelmick  
FRES. President of the British Dragonfly Society

References:

Askew R.R., 1988. *The Dragonflies of Europe*. Harley Books.

Cham S., Nelson B., Parr A., Prentice S., Smallshire D., and Taylor P. 2014. *Atlas of Dragonflies of Britain and Ireland*. Field Studies Council.