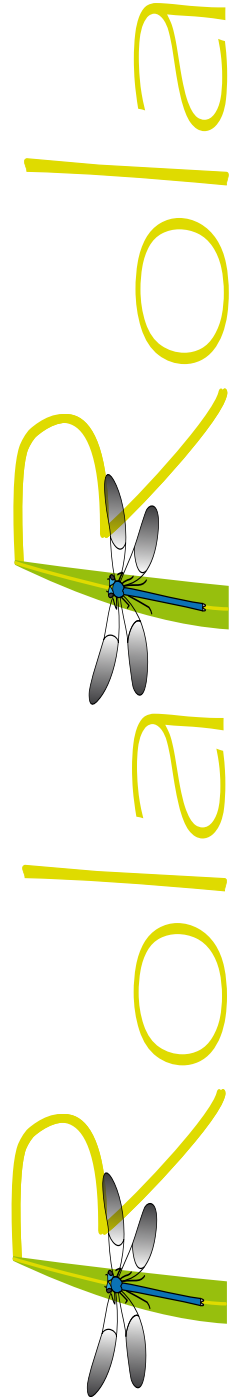




## EDITORIAL

It is a great pleasure to see how this journal is developing and expanding its scope. This volume demonstrates the diversity and strength of Odonata studies in Spain and Portugal. David Chelmick's paper on the scarce and charismatic *Macromia splendens* integrates each aspect of the life cycle in an autecological study which shows how studies over several years, can provide many new insights and continue to raise new questions. Adolfo Cordero's deep insight of the genus *Ischnura* is reflected by an authoritative paper on its Iberian colour forms which will be useful both to the expert and the beginner. The content of the journal also demonstrates the breadth of biogeographic studies of the Iberian Odonata, and the huge volume of new records which are being compiled.

This is very timely. Changes in the Odonata fauna of Europe are taking place at a faster rate than at any time in the recorded past. The efficiency of recording in Spain and Portugal now makes it possible to distinguish real range expansions from the artefacts of improved recording. The new British and Irish Atlas was published in 2014, and showed large northward expansions of range of several well-established species, such as *Sympetrum*



*sanguineum*, *Libellula depressa*, *Anax imperator*, expansion within range and increases in abundance, in formerly scarce species such as *Libellula fulva* and *Brachytron pratense*, and even *Aeshna isosceles*, which has become established over 100km from its previous sites. Britain has been colonised by several new breeding species, some now well established, such as *Erythromma viridulum* and *Chalcolestes viridis*. Formerly scarce migrants are now seen at dozens of sites every year, and breed in most years, e.g. *Sympetrum fonscolombii*, *S. flaveolum*, while previously very rare vagrants such as *Anax parthenope* and *Lestes barbarus* are now regular visitors and have bred on occasion. It is fascinating to see exactly similar changes in the fauna of each region of Spain and Portugal, with new species arriving in the extreme south, and established species expanding their ranges northward.

So, congratulations on the publication of the latest substantial contribution to odonatology in Iberia.

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