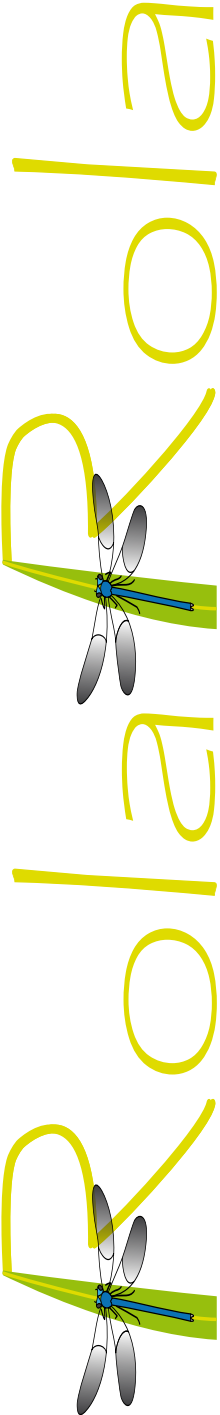




EDITORIAL

ROLA (Red de Observadores de Libélulas en Andalucía) is a dragonfly recording scheme launched officially in 2011 from our small NGO, AEA El Bosque Animado, aiming at increasing our level of knowledge in the area and, maybe more importantly, to instruct local students and naturalists new in this field.

If one considers the Mediterranean Atlas of dragonflies, it is apparent that a large part of our region is under-surveyed. We are only a few local specialists working on dragonflies in this part of the world and we simply cannot reach the level of fieldwork necessary to have correct and up to date data on distribution and conservation. Currently local authorities are not likely to invest in a project equivalent to the fantastic dragonfly book which has been produced in Extremadura, one of our neighbouring regions.



Moreover, it has to be said that species new to the European continent were added by travelling naturalists (it is also true that they were observed independently by a local specialist almost at the same time), and rare species were also reported by foreign dragonfly enthusiasts. We are aware of the enormous potential of northern visitors in recording, since there are lots of interesting species to be searched for and observed, and also because recording is much more established in other parts of Europe. Andalusia is indeed a thrilling place to spend holidays, and quite special from an odonatological point of view.

That said, we are striving to advertise our new scheme and would like to point out that we are aiming at publishing a yearly Boletín de la ROLA, the journal of the project with most of the raw data. Afterwards records will be passed on to the national recording scheme (held by professor Adolfo Cordero, University of Vigo), so that information will flow and be quickly available for research and conservation work.

At first this local journal was not really planned, since there are already several entomological journals in existence but it comes from the necessity to regularly put in the public domain the results that we are gathering and to give visibility to the project. It will be a simple and straightforward publication.

Maybe international collaboration appears to be a bit over the top for a local scheme such as ours (I must say it is odd to ask for dragonfly records from my province in English!), but we know that good data is written down in many notebooks or in pictures. If you would like to share your data and experiences, we would be glad to hear from you.

Florent Prunier
Presidente de AEA El Bosque Animado