

A record of the Blue (Scarce) Chaser (*Libellula fulva*) in South Moravia, Czech Republic (Odonata)

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VLAŠÁNEK P. 2009: A record of the Blue (Scarce) Chaser (*Libellula fulva*) in South Moravia, Czech Republic (Odonata). *Acta Musei Moraviae, Scientiae biologicae* (Brno) **94:** 13–14. – A new record of the critically endangered dragonfly *Libellula fulva* Müller, 1764 is reported. It was observed close to the town of Kostice in South Moravia, the Czech Republic, on 6 May 2008.

Keywords. Faunistics, Odonata, *Libellula fulva*, Moravia

Introduction

Libellula fulva Müller, 1764 is a rare and critically endangered dragonfly in the Czech Republic (HANEL *et al.* 2005). Otherwise, it displays a typical temperate distribution in Europe, from northern parts of the three southern peninsulas to southern Fennoscandia. It is threatened mainly by loss of suitable habitats – still or slowly running oligotrophic to mesotrophic waters with richly structured littoral vegetation (DOLNÝ 2007). Records from the Czech Republic are scarce. Only three findings are on record from before 1999 (DOLNÝ 2007, SLAVÍČEK 1930). After 1999, several new findings have been acquired, mainly from Moravia and Silesia. Most of them are single records, however, and only two regularly breeding populations are known – one close to Karviná and the other close to Hodonín (DOLNÝ 2002, DOLNÝ 2007, DOLNÝ *et al.* 2003, DOLNÝ & MATĚJKA 2007). The situation of *Libellula fulva* in the neighbouring countries of Slovakia and Austria is not much better. Only single records exist from Slovakia (ŠÁCHA *et al.* 2007). A similar situation exists in Austria, where several localities are known but the dragonfly is critically endangered (RAAB *et al.* 2007). Here, I report a new finding from South Moravia.

Results and Discussion

Material. Moravia mer., Kostice (48°44'5.006"N, 17°0'19.414"E; grid square 7268), 6 May 2008, 1 ex (adult female), P. Vlašánek leg., det. et col.

Circumstances of find. the locality was a clearing in the Tvrdonický luh forest, a large (c. 3 km²) alluvial woodland adjacent to the River Morava and part of the Czech–Slovak border. The dragonfly was basking on herbaceous vegetation (0.5 m high) at midday and I spotted it from a paved road dividing the woodland.

The single individual could have been an emigrant from an already known breeding colony – either from the environs of Hodonín (16 km to the North), or from Slovakian side of the alluvium. It is also possible that an undetected population of *Libellula fulva* breeds in the Tvrdonický luh woodland. This large woodland (c. 3 km² on Czech side of the river, continuing on the Slovak side) remains little explored due to rather poor access, and the record of the rare dragonfly indicates that a detailed odonatological survey of the area might reveal new and important findings.

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