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DISTRIBUTION OF *HETAERINA TITIA*  
(ODONATA: CALOPTERYGIDAE)  
IN THE EASTERN GREAT LAKES REGION

Paul D. Pratt<sup>1</sup> and Paul M. Catling<sup>2</sup>

ABSTRACT

The lower Thames and Sydenham Rivers in southwestern Ontario have well established populations of *Hetaerina titia* that represent the northern range limit of the species. Although first discovered in 1985, these populations are not necessarily recently established. Adults appear from mid-August to early September and are most often seen around trees and shrubs overhanging moving water.

Beatty and Beatty (1971) reported *Hetaerina titia* (Drury), the Smoky Rubyspot, from four counties in Pennsylvania noting that it reached its northern limit in the state. It is unknown in New York State (Donnelly 1992). Although Glotzhofer (1995) noted that the most recent Ohio record was in 1957, two additional sites were recorded in 1995 (R.C. Glotzhofer pers. comm.). In Michigan *Hetaerina titia* was known from a 1927 record from Oakland Co., where Byers (1927) found two males and one female. It was considered to be "probably an occasional adventive in Michigan" by Kormondy (1958). In 1982 *H. titia* was discovered in Livingston County, Michigan where it is still present in 1998 (Weichsel 1998).

*Hetaerina titia* was not listed for Canada by Westfall & May (1996), and was first reported from Ontario the same year in Pratt's (1996) checklist of Ontario Odonata. Considering that except for the single extant Michigan site, the other occurrences in the surrounding area are all south of Canada (Fig. 1), it seems unlikely to occur in Ontario. However it was discovered on the lower Thames River by Paul Pratt and Jo Barten in 1985. In 1987 and 1991 it was found to be frequent or abundant at six localities along the Thames River. It was also found at one site on the Sydenham River near Alvington in 1991. In 1997 we found it at two of the previously discovered sites on the Thames River and at an additional locality further upstream (Fig. 2). All of the Thames River locations are situated along a 35 km portion of the river between Thamesville and London. These locations represent the only reports for Canada and thus are at the northern known range limit.

Based on the Ontario occurrences, it seems likely that *H. titia* may be more common and well established in the eastern Great Lakes region than

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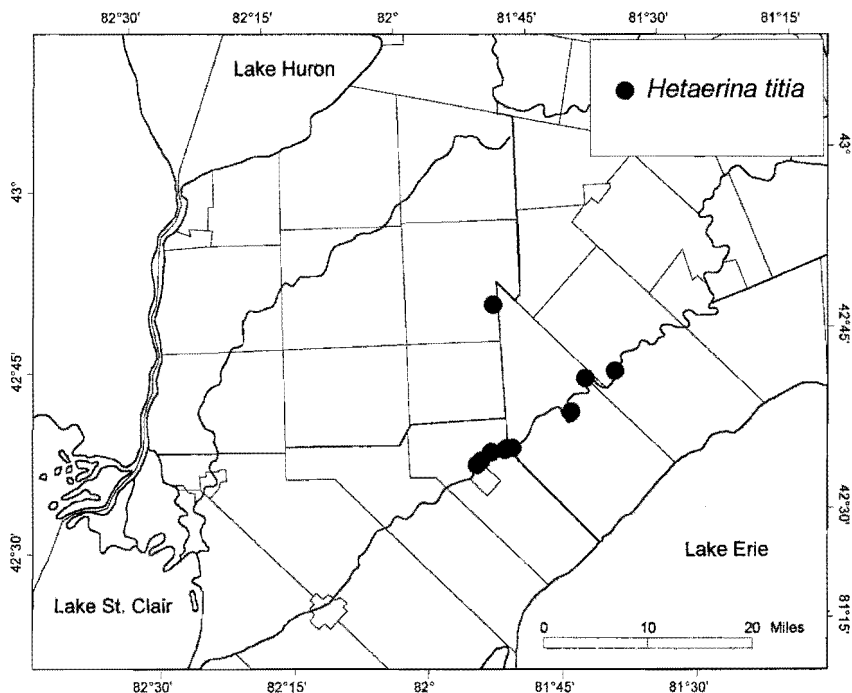


Figure 1. Ontario distribution of the Smoky Rubyspot, *Hetaerina titia*.

current knowledge indicates. The earliest and latest dates for Ontario are 16 August and 4 September. We have seen no distinct peaks in population numbers during this period. In Ohio the flight period extends from 22 Aug. to 8 Oct. (Glotzhober 1996).

Although the discovery of Smoky Rubyspot in southwestern Ontario is recent, it may have been long established there though overlooked in the field. Adults are more often associated with trees and shrubs overhanging moving water than *H. americana* (Fabr.) where the two occur together, and it is more likely to be seen from the water than from the shore. Associated damselflies include *Argia apicalis* (Say), *A. moesta* (Hagen), *Enallagma exsulans* (Hagen) and *Hetaerina americana*.

*H. titia* from the Great Lakes region are the tricolor form with mostly clear wings. The distinctly black-tipped hindwings and relatively long and dark abdomen are characteristic of males. The sides of the thorax of the female are more pale than metallic, instead of more metallic than pale as in *H. americana*, and the abdomen of the the female *H. titia* is much darker.

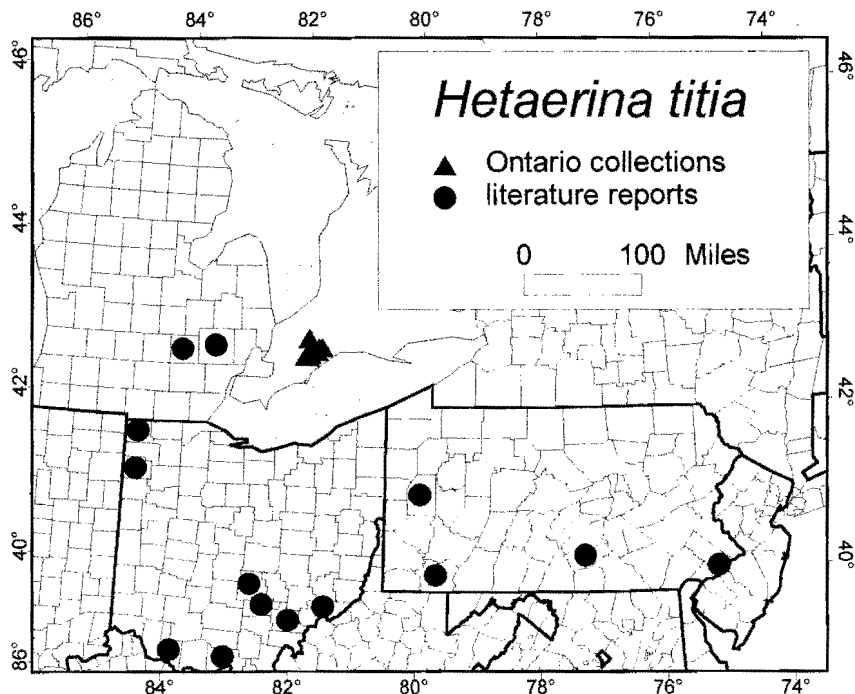


Figure 2. Distribution of *Hetaerina titia* in the eastern Great Lakes Region.

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