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GLEANNING ON COREIDAE (HETEROPTERA) BY
TACHOPTERYX THOREYI (ODONATA: PETALURIDAE)R.D. Waltz¹

Tachopteryx thoreyi (Hagen in Selys) is an uncommon or rare, fen and seep dwelling dragonfly noted for its large size, restricted habitat requirements, and characteristic habit of perching on tree trunks.

While performing insect sampling and habitat assessments in a fen at Mounds State Park, Anderson, Indiana, I observed a male *T. thoreyi* land on a tree trunk and capture an insect on the bark of the tree, 1 June 1998, at approximately 1430 hr. Upon approaching and capturing the dragonfly, I found that it had captured and held in its grasp a large leaf-footed bug, probably *Acanthocephala terminalis* (Dallas) (Heteroptera: Coreidae). The dragonfly was caught by hand and photographed with its prey still in its grasp. Unfortunately, the dragonfly released its prey during the photograph and the prey was not able to be retrieved from the tall grasses for species verification. Probable identification of the coreid was kindly provided by Al Wheeler, Jr., Clemson University, based on the above mentioned photograph and verbal descriptions of the species. By the time I captured the dragonfly, it had overturned the coreid and begun to feed on the coreid at approximately the anterior metasternal suture (i.e., between the mesosternum and the metasternum). It is of interest that although the defensive scent of the coreid was obvious, this apparently did not seem to deter the feeding by *T. thoreyi* in this case.

Report of this feeding behavior in *T. thoreyi* is noteworthy for several reasons. Gleaning (the taking of resting prey) in dragonflies and damselflies has been reported by Corbet (1963, page 148). However, this behavior has not previously been reported in the Petaluridae or in *T. thoreyi* specifically. The majority of data that has been published on the feeding of *T. thoreyi* includes many large and small insect species, e.g., Dunkle (1981) reports butterflies, moths, beetles, and other odonates, Williamson (1900) reported *T. thoreyi* feeding on moths, and Montgomery (1931) reported *T. thoreyi* feeding on *Calopteryx* (Odonata) (also reported by Dunkle (1981)), moths, and in Montgomery (1932) the ant species, *Camponotus pennsylvanicus* DeGeer. Feeding on coreidae by *T. thoreyi* has not been previously reported.

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