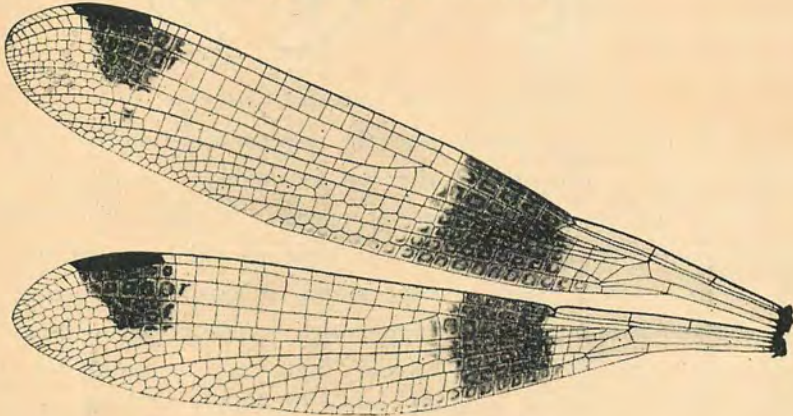


THE REDISCOVERY OF THE DRAGONFLY *OROLESTES OCTOMACULATA*.

BY LT.-COL. F. C. FRASER, I. M. S., F. E. S.

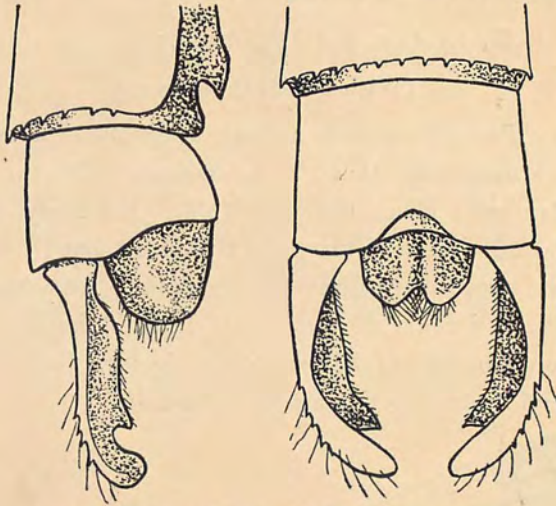
(With two text figures)

In the Paris Museum is a single specimen of a very interesting and rare dragonfly, *Orolestes octomaculata* Martin, which was taken in Cambodia about the year 1890. For forty years it has remained the only specimen known of this insect, but Dr. A. F. G. Kerr was fortunate enough to rediscover it, securing a second male at Tung Luang, Petchaburi, Siam, November 10, 1931. The female still remains unknown but it is fairly safe to conjecture that it will differ from the male by having the wings unmarked.



Wings of male.

Dr. Kerr's specimen differs in several of its details from the type and goes to show that there is considerable variation in the markings of the wings. The apices are not enfumed; the nodal band in the forewings is only 6 cells wide but is prolonged along the posterior border of the wing distad and proximad. In the hindwing it is only 4 cells in extent at the costal border. The preapical spots extend proximad for 2 to 3 cells of the pterostigma and involve only the anterior half of the wings. In the forewings there are also a few scattered cells with shaded middles. There are 21 postnodal nervures in the forewings and 17 to 18 in the hind; the sector *Riii* (Tillyard notation) arises only 6 cells after the node in the forewings ( $7\frac{1}{2}$  in the type), and 5 cells in the hindwings. Measurements: Hindwing 32 mm., abdomen 52 mm.



Anal appendages of male, lateral and dorsal views.

Dr. Kerr states that he saw the insect perched on the tip of a bamboo frond overhanging water but is unable to recall whether it rested with its wings closed or open. "It was a remarkably ragged looking insect," he says, "and I did not think at first that it was a dragonfly." Such an appearance is due to the irregular spotting and banding of the wings, which cryptic colouring renders the insect inconspicuous in broken light, and is paralleled by *Chloroneura quadrimaculata* and other dragonflies. The wings and anal appendages of this insect have not hitherto been figured.