

**Banded Darter *Sympetrum pedemontanum* (Allioni, 1766)**  
**(Odonata: Libellulidae) – a new dragonfly species in the fauna of Latvia**

MĀRTIŅŠ KALNIŅŠ

Entomological Society of Latvia, 4 Kronvalda Blvd., LV-1586, Rīga, Latvia; e-mail: vendene@delfi.lv

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**Abstract:** At the moment there are 53 native dragonfly species of nine families ascertained in Latvia, as well as one immigrated dragonfly species. There are data on six further species in the literature that may be ascertained in Latvia. Included is also *Sympetrum pedemontanum* (Allioni, 1766) – Banded Darter. In the year 2001 one male of this species was caught also in Latvia. Banded Darter *S. pedemontanum* is a new species for Latvian fauna.

**Key words:** Odonata, *Sympetrum pedemontanum*, fauna, Latvia.

At the moment there are 53 native dragonfly species of nine families ascertained in Latvia, as well as one immigrated species. Beside, there are 6 other dragonfly species mentioned, which could be ascertained (Spuris, 1993). There are five native and one immigrated dragonfly species of the genus *Sympetrum* Newman, 1833, ascertained. *S. eroticum* Selys, 1883 and *S. pedemontanum* (Allioni, 1766) are mentioned as possible species for Latvia (Spuris, 1993).

In Europe, Banded Darter *S. pedemontanum* is common in the Central and Southern part. In the SW of Spain only two localities of this species are known. Habitats include the Northern parts of the mountain area in Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Romania, farther to East through Russia and Asia up to Japan. The species can be rarely found in the former Yugoslavia, Bulgaria, Belgium, France and the Netherlands. It is not found on British Isles and Scandinavia,

as well as in Estonia (Askew, 1988). The species was found in Lithuania, where they made small populations.

15th July 2001 in Riga district in surrounding of Mazie Kangari, in the gravel-pit near Kangarnieki between Tumšupe and Allažmuiža one male of this species has been caught. In the territory of the gravel-pit there is a wetland that formed after the gravel output interruption (in one end of the gravel-pit the gravel output continues). The SW end of the wetland starts to overgrow with various submerged and above-water macrophytes. The degree of overgrowth is still small with sparse vegetation. In the gravel-pit near the wetland small puddles have formed. At the margin a relatively broad zone, with vegetation of various height and denseness, has formed.

Since the flying time of the species in the European part of the area is from middle of July till the end of October (Askew, 1988), it's rather believable that the species has developed in this gravel-pit. Together with *S.*

*pedemontanum* also the other species – *S. danae* (Sulzer, 1776) has been observed in great number.

For all dragonfly species found in Latvia there are names given in Latvian, which are often used. *S. pedemontanum* yet does not have such name. To partake some similarity in names in other languages (Gebänderte Heidelibelle – in German, Banded Darter – in English, Sympétrum du Piémont – in French, Bandheidelibel – in Dutch), as well as euphony in Latvian and conformity to the species' appearance, the possible name could be “joslu klajumspāre”.

## Kopsavilkums

Latvijā konstatētas 53 vietējās spāru sugas no deviņām dzimtām, kā arī viena iemigrējusi spāru suga. Literatūrā atrodamas ziņas par vēl sešām spāru sugām, kuras iespējams varētu konstatēt Latvijā. To skaitā ir arī klajumspāre *Sympetrum pedemontanum* (Allioni, 1766). 2001. gadā viens šīs sugas tēviņš noķerts arī Latvijā, Rīgas rajonā Mazo Kangaru apkārtnē, karjerā pie Kangarniekiem (starp Tumšupi un Allažmuižu). Klajumspāre *S. pedemontanum* ir jauna suga Latvijas faunai. Izvērtējot nosaukumus citās valodās, kā arī labskanīgumu latviešu valodā un atbilstību sugas izskatam, latviešu valodā sugu būtu jāsauc par joslu klajumspāri.

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