

BOOK REVIEW

DRAGONFLIES OF THE FLORIDA PENINSULA, BERMUDA AND THE BAHAMAS by Sidney W. Dunkle. 1989. Scientific Publishers, Gainesville, FL - Washington, DC. \$14.95 (paper)

DAMSELFLIES OF FLORIDA, BERMUDA AND THE BAHAMAS by Sidney W. Dunkle. 1990. Scientific Publishers, Gainesville, FL - Washington, DC. \$12.95 (paper) \$19.95 (cloth)

Dragonflies and damselflies are among the largest and most colorful insects. In many ways they rival butterflies in attracting people's attention. Yet, to the frustration of many naturalists and amateur entomologists, there is no good modern field guide to the Odonata of North America to rival those for Lepidoptera or those for the Odonata of Europe and Japan. This deficiency has been recognized by sepcialists and for several decades there has been talk of a colorful popular field guide, but none has appeared.

For the people of Florida, Bermuda, and the Bahamas this wait is over. Sidney W. Dunkle, Manager of the International Odonata Research Institute in Gainesville, has produced two beautiful guide books containing closeup color photographs of every species known to occur in the area. Considering the elusiveness and wariness of many species, this is both a photographic and an entomological accomplishment. Most species can be identified from the photographs. For those that cannot, supplemental figures are provided. In addition to the photographs which highlight these books, there are brief, accurate descriptions of each species and notes on their distribution, ecology, and behavior.

While some of the 140 species in these books do not occur elsewhere in the United States, about a third of all species in the United States occur in Florida and are presented in these books. Consequently, these books are very useful guides for areas beyond Florida, particularly the Gulf and Atlantic Coasts. For example, 75 of the about 110 species known from Delaware are illustrated and described.

These books on the dragonflies and damselflies of Florida, Bermuda, and the Bahamas are reasonably priced. They are recommended for anyone interested in the Odonata, the natural history of Florida, or photographs of colorful insects. Given the success of these books, perhaps Dr. Dunkle can be persuaded to produce similar guides to the dragonflies and damselflies of the United States.

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