

AN UPDATED CHECKLIST OF THE ODONATA OF VENEZUELA

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An annotated checklist is given of 449 spp. and 6 sspp., referable to 116 genera of 14 families. Additional taxa are evidenced, but remain unidentified. 16 spp. that are to be deleted from the Venezuelan list are commented upon in an Appendix.

INTRODUCTION

More than twenty years ago RACENIS (1966) compiled the first checklist of the Venezuelan Odonata. His "preliminary list" includes many undescribed species (*nomina nuda*) which in the aftermath were described frequently under a different name, or still await description. Others had to be synonymized since, or changed their generic position. No fewer than 16 genera and 65 species or subspecies could be added to the Venezuelan fauna over the last two decades (cf. Tab. I), while at least two genera and many species and subspecies recorded from this country erroneously, either by Racenis or by other authors, had to be deleted from the national list. PAULSON (1983), in a recent attempt to compile a "working list" of the Odonata for each South American country, eliminated Racenis' *nomina nuda* from the Venezuelan list and included some additional records, but otherwise continued to largely rely upon Racenis' data.

A critical revision of all Venezuelan records allows now the presentation of an updated checklist which can serve as a basis for future studies. All species and subspecies mentioned in the list are either represented in the MIZA collection (Museo del Instituto de Zoología Agrícola), or their occurrence in Venezuela has been reliably demonstrated. The sequence of the families tries to reflect their phylogenetic relationship. For each family the genera, species and subspecies are listed alphabetically; the species are numbered.

For several taxa the ordinal number in the list is accompanied by an additional