

**PERILESTES CASTOR AND P. POLLUX, NEW DRAGON-
FLIES FROM ECUADOR, WITH NOTES ON P. KAHLI**

(Odonata: Lestidae)

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The following descriptions and notes are on material collected by the Indian crew of William Clarke-Macintyre on the headwaters of the Rio Napo, a tributary of the Amazon in the Province of Oriente, Ecuador. It is a region of swift jungle streams at an elevation of 500 to 800 meters above sea-level.

For some reason *Perilestes* are difficult to collect. During three years of regular shipments of Odonata from this region less than twenty specimens have come to hand. These cover three species, two of which are undescribed. The whole material shows that the Indian field collectors tend to take easily caught species. Species of *Argia*, *Heteragrion* and *Acanthagrion* are one-fourth to one-half of the total material in each shipment. Macintyre indicates in letters that the jungle is so dense the greater part of the collecting is done along jungle paths which have to be brushed out on setting up each new camp. Probably *Perilestes* are jungle insects that fly among or under vegetation where it is difficult for the collector to go.

The genus *Perilestes* stands by itself in the South American fauna but is associated there with genera of other families whose fossil relatives are found in the Eocene (Green River Formations) and Miocene (Florissant) of North America. As the North American fossils and their surviving faunal associates, *Paraphlebia* and *Thaumatoneura*, are more closely related to living oriental genera than they are to the present South American fauna probably *Perilestes* and the other primitive South American genera represent a fauna either earlier than that of the Eocene and Miocene of North America or a contemporaneous fauna which reached South America over some other route than by way of Behring Straits and North and Central America. Present evidence can be interpreted either way.

Because of this interest in *Perilestes* as one of South America's "living fossils" and because it has had few illustra-