

***HETERAGRION TIRADENTENSE* SPEC. NOV.
FROM THE STATE OF MINAS GERAIS, BRAZIL
(ZYGOPTERA: MEGAPODAGRIONIDAE)**

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The new sp. (holotype ♂: Brazil, Minas Gerais, Tiradentes, 1-XI-1999) is described and illustrated. It belongs in the group 1 of E. de SELYS-LONGCHAMPS (1862, *Bull. Acad. Belg. [II]* 14: 5-44) and differs from the other spp. of the group by its small size and by the color, shape and size of its mesepisternal spot.

INTRODUCTION

The São José mountain range of southeastern Brazil has recently been proclaimed by the Government of the State of Minas Gerais the “Libélulas da Serra de São José” Wildlife Refuge, the first nature reserve in Brazil and perhaps in South America with the primary focus on the protection of dragonflies. On surveying the rich odonata fauna of this reserve (120 species) we came across a beautiful new species of *Heteragrion* that is described herein under the name of *Heteragrion tiradentense*. With this new finding the genus attains 43 species and 1 subspecies, 16 of which from the Brazilian fauna as reported by SELYS (1862, 1886), CALVERT (1909), SJÖSTEDT (1918), WILLIAMSON (1919), MACHADO (1988), GARRISON (1989) and COSTA & SANTOS (2000). *H. tiradentense* is the 6th species of *Heteragrion* reported for the state of Minas Gerais, two of which, *H. obsoletum* Selys, 1886 and *H. petiense* Machado, 1988, figure among the Brazilian red listed Odonata (MACHADO et al., 2005). Heteragrions are poorly studied in Brazil and the number of species is likely to increase substantially as more studies are made.