

SUMMARY

New data about the occurrence of protected dragonflies *Odonata* in north-western Poland

New data about the occurrence of *Aeshna viridis*, *Leucorrhinia albifrons*, *L. caudalis* and *L. pectoralis* are given. The material was collected in the years 1998-2001, from nine sample sites (Fig. 1): Krajnik (meadows at the River Odra), Binowo (Binowo Lake), Czermnica (a forest dystrophic water body), Żabowo (a forest dystrophic water body), Połczyn-Zdrój („Valley of Five Lakes” nature reserve – Krag Lake and Długie Lake), Lubowo (Lubicko Wielkie Lake), Borne-Sulinowo (forest dystrophic water body and transitional peat bog).

Based on new records and on literature it can be stated that *Leucorrhinia albifrons* and *L. pectoralis* are relatively common in the north-western Poland (Fig. 2), whereas *Aeshna viridis* and *Leucorrhinia caudalis* are known from few localities. It may partially be the result of highly incomplete knowledge about the dragonfly fauna of the area. The characteristics of its habitat and the state of nature indicate that in fact the species may be much more frequent there.

The mentioned species are protected in Poland due to their presence in the Annex II to Bern Convention, which reflects the situation in western Europe in 1970s. They are undoubtedly endangered. *Leucorrhinia caudalis* is on the Polish Red List of threatened Animals in Poland in the category “Near Threatened”, *Aeshna viridis* and *Leucorrhinia albifrons* in “Least Concern”, and *Leucorrhinia pectoralis* is not included on the List. Therefore their protection is being questioned. But the situation of the mentioned species in Germany, Czech Republic and Slovakia is serious (Tab. 1). Poland is the westernmost country of Central Europe, where the populations of the species are stable and little endangered. Therefore it is their very important refugium. The situation puts a great responsibility on Poland to preserve and protect the species. Besides, threats to dragonflies in Poland are similar to those in western Europe, though they are not as intensive. It is hard to forecast their progress. For that reason the monitoring of highly endangered species is desirable.