

Venation. Forewings of 1. *Lestes sponsa*; 2. *L. amicus*; 3. *L. auripennis*; 4. *L. plagiatus*; 5. *L. ictericus*; 6. *L. pallidus*; 7. *L. ochraceus*; 8. *Sympetrum fusca*.

*Wing structures* (Text fig. 1-8)

Wings usually narrowed apically but apex short, broadly rounded in *L. dryas* and *macrostigma*, *I. ictericus* and some *X. ochraceus*.

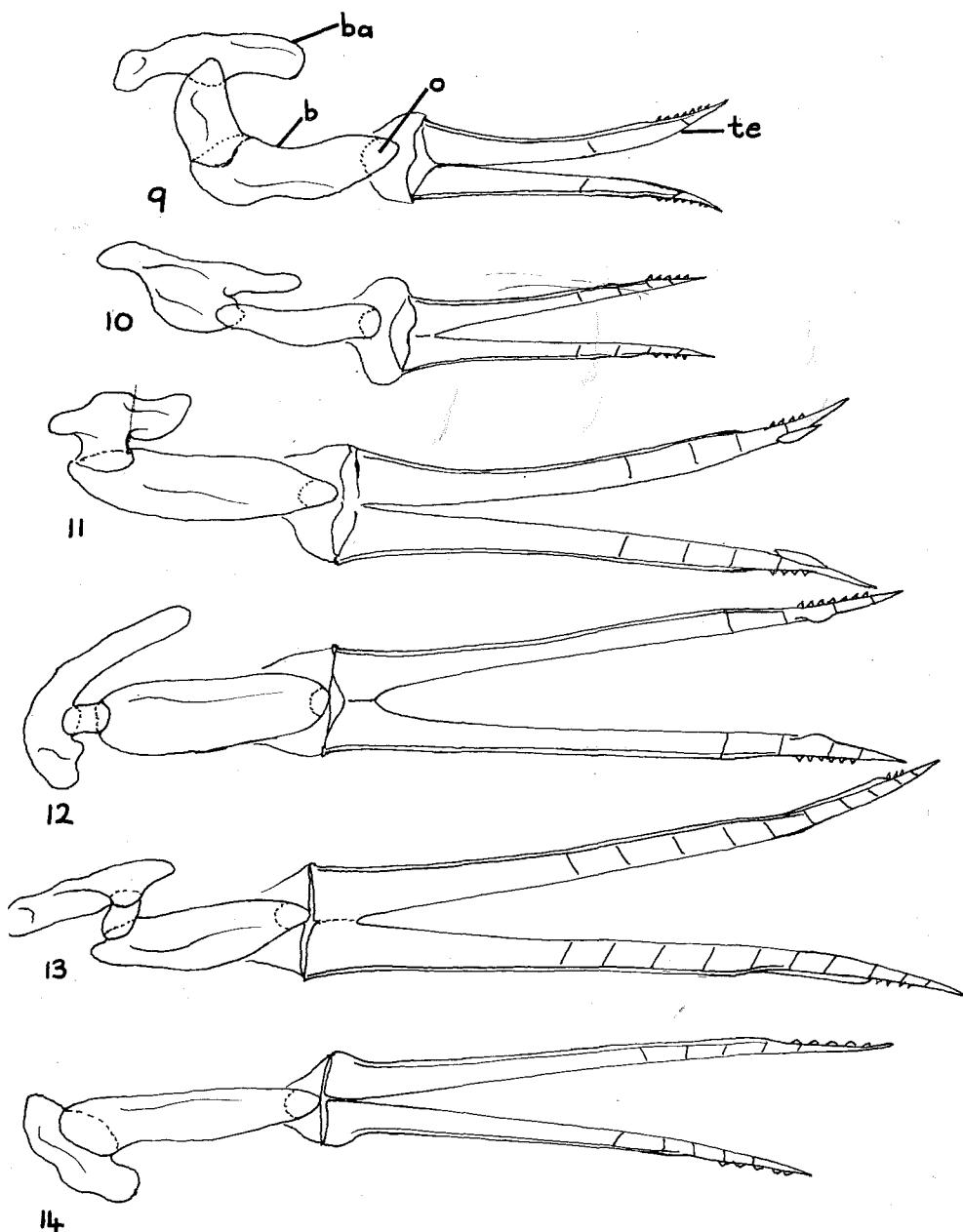
TABLE 1. Measurements

Subgenus and species	Shape of mesepisternum				Wing characters (normal variation)		
	Abd. ♂ mm	Mesepisternum Length	Width	Ratio L/W (approx.)	Length of Pt mm	No. of Px fore- wing	Start of interc. veins, R4-MA fw
<i>Lestes sponsa</i> ... .. .	30	4,1	1,3	3	1,25-1,5	11-12	Px 2-3½
<i>L. virens</i> ... .. .	26	3,6	1,2	3	1,25	9-12	Px 3-5
<i>L. dryas</i> ... .. .	26	4,1	1,3	3	1,35-1,5	11-13	Px 1½-3
<i>L. barbarus</i> ... .. .	33	4,8	1,3	4	1,25-1,5	10-14	Px 2-4
<i>L. macrostigma</i> ... .. .	33	3,8	1,4	3	2,0-2,5	13-14	Px 3-5
<i>L. virgatus</i> ... .. .	40	5,4	1,3	4	1,5-2	12-14	Px 2½-5
<i>L. amicus</i> ... .. .	37	5,4	1,3	4	2,3-3	12-13	Px 4-7
<i>Chalcolestes viridis</i> ... ..	32	3,7	1,2	3	1,75	11-13	Px 4-5
<i>Pseudochalcolestes silvaticus</i> ... ..	31	4,5	1,4	3	1,5-1,75	11-12	Px 3-5
<i>Ps. auripennis</i> ... .. .	33	4,7	1,4	3	2,3-2,5	13-15	Px 4-5
<i>Paralestes tridens</i> ... ..	28	4,2	1,0	4	1,0	9-11	Px 4-5
<i>P. dissimilans</i> ... .. .	34	4,7	1,3	4	1,25	9-11	Px 2½-5
<i>P. plagiatus</i> ... .. .	35	4,8	1,3	4	1,5-2,0	11-13	Px 3-5
<i>P. pinheyi</i> ... .. .	32	4	1,1	4	1,25-1,5	12-14	Px 4-6
<i>P. uncifer</i> ... .. .	38	5,2	1,2	4	1,0-1,25	11-13	Px 4-6
<i>Malgassolestes simulator</i> ... ..	31	4,7	1,1	4	1,0-1,25	10-12	Px 4-5
<i>M. pruinescens</i> ... .. .	—	(not measured)			1,2	11-12	Px 6
<i>Icterolestes ictericus</i> ... ..	31	4,8	0,9	5	1,25-1,3	11-13	Px 3-5
<i>Xerolestes pallidus</i> ... ..	31	4,6	0,9	5	1,25-2,0	9-11	Px 2-3
<i>X. ochraceus</i> (& spp.) ... ..	33	5,0	1,1	4,5	1,75-2,0	11-13	Px 2-3½

*Pterostigma* (Table 1). Short (1.5 mm or less), thick, rectangular in *L. barbarus*, *dryas*, *virens*, all *Paralestes* except *plagiatus*, *Malgassolestes* and *Icterolestes*. It is broad, rectangular and long (over 1.5 mm) in *L. macrostigma*, *Ch. viridis* and *Ps. silvaticus*; narrow in *L. sponsa*, *P. plagiatus* and *Xerolestes*; convex and broad in *L. virgatus*, *amicus* and *Ps. auripennis*.

Serrations on costal edge above pterostigma show some variation in number of teeth and size, for instance, more robust in *virgatus* and in *Xerolestes*. No correlation has been found to be significant.

*Postnodal cross-veins* (Table 1). Px in forewings are most numerous (12-15) in *L. barbarus*, *macrostigma*, *virgatus*, *pinheyi*, *amicus* and *Ps. auripennis*. Px are fewest (9-11) in *P. tridens*,



Bursae of females. 9. *pallidus* (Khwaai); 10. *pinheyi* (Maun); 11. *barbarus* (Morocco); 12. *plagiatus* (Khami); 13. *virgatus* (Ndola); 14. *dissimilans* (Wankie).  
**b** = bursa copulatrix, **ba** = bursal arms, **o** = ostium (gonopore), **te** = ventral terebra (of segment 8) seen dorsally.

3. Synthorax brown or grey-brown with antehumeral marking and some sutural markings. No sternal black markings . . . . . 4

— Synthorax green with some black markings; or mainly black at least laterally. Sternites at least partly black . . . . . 5

4. Brown. Mesepisternum with a long black antehumeral stripe and humeral line . . . . . f. pallidus

— Brown. With long black antehumeral stripe as well as humeral and lateral stripes . . . . . f. radiatus

— Grey-brown. With interrupted antehumeral stripe and sutural lines . . . . . f. cineraceus

5. Green. With black sutural markings, as well as fasciae on metepimeron and on sternites . . . . . f. stigmatus

— Thorax sometimes partly green but heavily blackened, the sides and sternites mainly black . . . . . f. wahlbergi

## TAXONOMY OF SPECIES

## LESTIDAE

## Subf. LESTINAE

LESTES Leach

LESTES (LESTES) SPONSA (Hansemann) Text fig. 1, 15-20, pp. 341, 366

*Agrion sponsa* Hansemann, 1823: 159

*Lestes sponsa* Selys, 1840: 140; Selys, 1862: 301 (17 sep.); Kirby, 1890: 160; Schmidt, 1928: 247 (fig. only); May, 1933: 33, 92 (adult and larva); Cowley, 1935: 56; Cowley, 1940: 174; Longfield, 1949: 177, pls.; Conci & Nielsen, 1956: 66, 69, figs.; Robert, 1958: 85, figs.; Loibl, 1958: 55-80; Corbet, 1962: 12, 24, 37, 120 etc.; Pinhey, 1966b: 284; Belyshev, 1973: 504, fig. 211

*Lestes sponsus* Martin, 1910: 102

*Agrion forcipula* Charpentier, 1825: 6 (syn. Kirby, 1890)

*Lestes nympha* Stephens (Kirby MS) 1829: 26 (nom. nov.); Stephens, 1836: 77 (syn. Kirby, 1890)

Type described from Germany.

This species is the generally accepted type species of *Lestes* Leach.

The word *sponsa*, in Latin, means a bride, *sponsus*, a promise or a bridegroom. The usual form of the name, *sponsa*, will be retained here.

**Characters:** Sectors of arculus well forward, like *viridis* and all Ethiopian species. A metallic green species, with strong dorsal crest on segment 10. Inferior anal appendage very long, its distal portion with arm inturned. Vulvar scale with distal angular extension.

**General description.** Mature ♂ pruinosed white laterally and ventrally. Small.

*Mature ♂ (Germany).* Labrum and face green or blue-green. Postclypeus and head above black or metallic green. Orbita below black.

Synthorax metallic green to first lateral suture, and below this at dorsal end. Black stripe at dorsal carina, black stripe enclosing an ochreous line at humeral suture. Sternite strongly white pruinosed, faintly showing a thick black U-shaped mark. Femora 2-3 mainly black, with narrow ochreous stripes.

Wings hyaline or slightly fumose. Venation dark brown to black. Pterostigma shortish, broad or narrow, the posterior edge straight; above about two cells; black, with pale anterior or anterior and distal edge. Forewing with 11-12 Px. Ac at or slightly before separation of anal vein. Space R<sub>4</sub>-MA with long intercalaries starting proximally, at Px 2 to Px 3, and short distal ones.

Abdomen broadly metallic green on most segments; segment 1 all pruinose (juveniles with squarish distal spot); 9-10 black; segment 10 with pronounced dorsal crest and with denticles on distal margin.

Anal appendages mainly black. Superior appendage gradually forcipate, with numerous outer denticles. Sub-basal tooth sharply acute, well connected with flange. Flange serrated and straight, abruptly inturned before the end. Inferior appendage extending about three-quarters as far as superior in side-view; conical at base, with long straight but inturned distal arm. Head of prophallus with broad, rounded distal hood, surmounted anteriorly by a long narrow lip. Terminal shelf simple.

Abd. 29-30 mm; hw. 20-21 mm; pt. 1,25-1,5 mm. (Selys, 1862, gives abd. ♂ 25-30, ♀ 25-29; hw. 18-21 mm). Pruinose ♂ (Japan) essentially similar. Pterostigma paler, browner. Thoracic dorsal carina and humeral suture all black.

*Mature ♀ (Japan).* Labrum greenish yellow, postclypeus and head above dark metallic green or bronze.

Prothoracic hind lobe narrow. Mesostigmal lamina narrow, black, with straight black posterior ridge. Synthorax metallic green, as in ♂. Sternite with trace of a lateral brown bar and small medial spot at distal end.

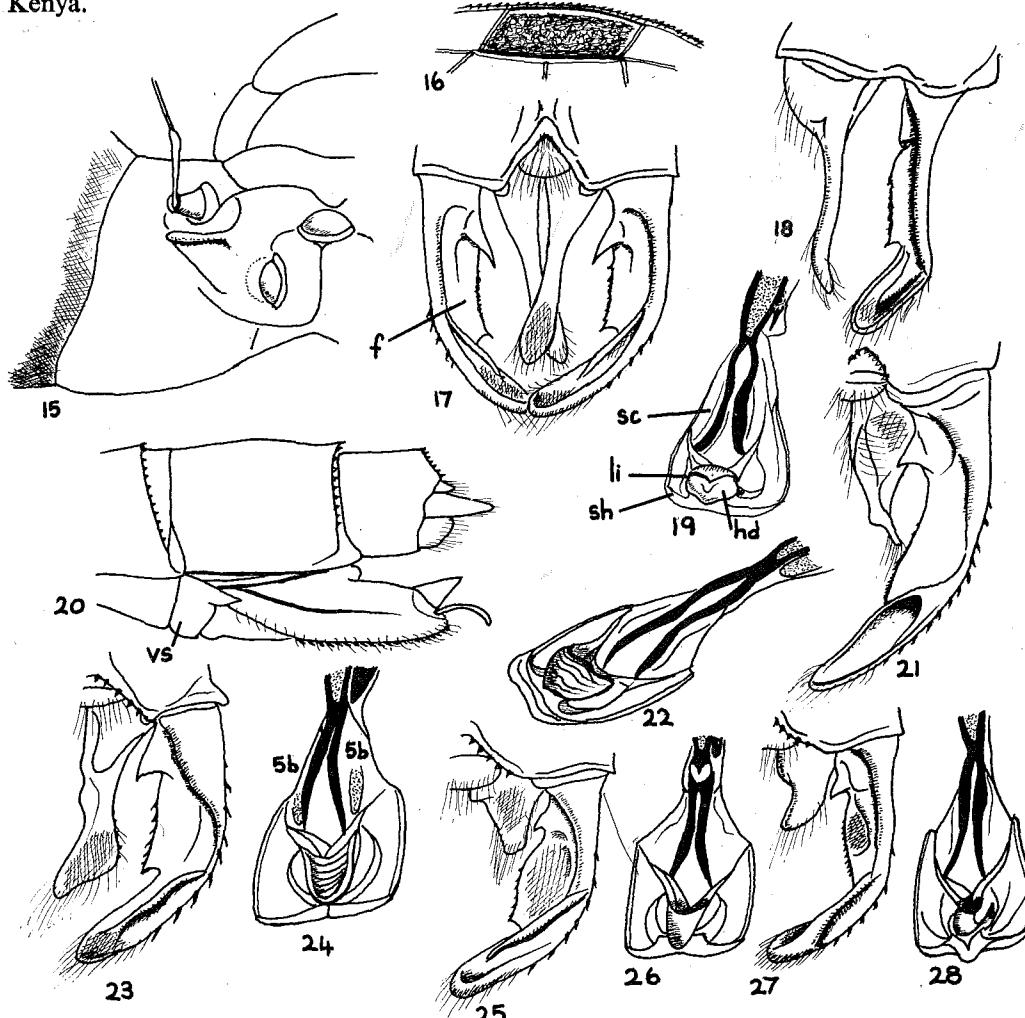
Pterostigma brown. Forewing with 13-14 Px.

Abdomen with metallic band on all segments, but only on distal end of segment 1 and restricted on 10. Segment 10 with slight crest, Cerci thick, mainly black. Ovipositor sheath black on lower half; scarcely curved ventrally, slightly more so on denticulate distal half.

Vulvar scale produced to an acute apical point at upper distal angle.

Abdomen 29-30 mm; hindwing 22,5 mm.

**Distribution.** Widespread in Europe; North and NW Asia. Martin (1910) gives Algeria: common at lake margins. A Kenya record must be discounted (see Pinhey 1966b: 284): 3 ♂ in RSM, Edinburgh are labelled: "Laikipia, Brit. East Africa, 6/1905, F. J. Jackson". These specimens were from the G. T. Bethune-Baker Collection. This is a most unlikely record and, as I remarked in 1966, the specimens were probably collected when Sir Frederick Jackson (former Governor of Uganda) was on leave in Europe. *Laikinia* is in northern Kenya.



Subgenus *Lestes* (15-28). *L. sponsa*: 15. Left side of head of ♂ showing ridge behind antennal cavity; 16. pterostigma of right forewing; 17-18. anal appendages dorsally and from left; 19. prophallus; 20. terminal segments and ovipositor sheath and vulvar scale at its base (all Germany except prophallus from Japan). *L. barbarus* (Morocco): 21. right anal appendages from above; 22. prophallus. *L. dryas* (California): 23. anal appendages dorsally, 24. prophallus. *L. macrostigma* (Turkey): 25, 26. the same. *L. virens* (Germany): 27, 28. the same.

f = flange, hd = hood, li = ligula, sc = scoop, sh = shelf.

**Material examined.**

*NMB*: W. Germany: Karlsruhe Weingarten, July 1964.

Japan: Hokkaido, Aug. 1935.

An Algerian record of Martin's has been reported to me (*USSRL*):

Algeria (Martin Colln).

**LESTES (LESTES) BARBARUS (Fabricius)** Text fig. 11, 21, 22, pp. 347, 366

*Agrion barbara* Fabricius, 1798: 286; van der Linden, 1825: 36

*Lestes barbara* Hagen, 1849: 147 (type species); Hagen & Selys, 1850: 161; Selys, 1862: 318 (34 sep.); Hagen, 1863: 194; McLachlan, 1889: 348; Martin, 1910: 82; Fraser, 1933: 49 fig. 20

*Lestes barbarus* Selys, 1887: 67 (Egypt); Roster, 1888: 164 pl. 3 (early stages); Kirby, 1890: 162; Martin, 1910: 84, 87; Morton, 1924: 30; May, 1933: 31, 89 (adult and larva); Cowley, 1940: 174; Schmidt, 1951: 122 (quoting Hagen, 1849, *Lestes barbarus* as type species of *Lestes*); Conci & Nielsen, 1956: 65, 66 figs.; Aguesse & Pruja, 1958: 103 (Morocco); Robert, 1958: 82; Loibl, 1958: 55-80; Corbet, 1962: 178; Lieftinck, 1966: 10 (Morocco)

*Agrion nympha* Hansemann, 1823: 161 (syn. Kirby, 1890)

*Lestes barbata* Belyshev, 1973: 509 fig. 213 (? laps. cal.)

Type from Barbary in North Africa.

Martin (1910) says (p. 82) "Enfin, à juger d'après un exemplaire rapporté de l'Afrique tropicale par M. Ch. Alluaud, *Lestes barbara*, l'espèce européenne, habite également l'Afrique chaude". On p. 87, in placing *Lestes barbarus* near *obscurus* and *niger* he gave the specific distribution as central and southern Europe, Asia Minor and from there to India; throughout Mediterranean Africa; and states that Alluaud collected the only known record for tropical Africa. He said it was identical to the European form. It would seem probable that Alluaud's *barbara* was either a misidentification, or the locality was incorrect.

**Characters.** Non pruinose. Pterostigma bicolorous. Wing apices broadly rounded, as in *dryas* and *ictericus*. Sectors of arculus well forward as in *sponsa*, *viridis*, and all Ethiopian species. Orbita below and sternites unmarked with black. Anal appendages yellow with black apex; inferior appendage over half as long as superior, with flat extension ending in an out-turned point. Vulvar scale simple.

**General description.** Non-pruinose.

*Almost mature male* (Morocco). Labrum greenish yellow. Postclypeus bronze-black, yellow at lateral margins. Head above bronze or metallic green, but antennal bases yellow. Orbita below yellow.

Prothorax brownish yellow with bronze maculae; hind lobe broadish with short bronze basal band. Synthorax bright metallic green to first lateral suture and below this at dorsal end. Dorsal carina yellow; a yellow stripe above humeral suture. Second lateral suture unmarked. Sternites all yellow.

Femora 2-3 yellow with black outer and anterior stripes.

Wings hyaline. Venation yellowish brown to brown. Pterostigma short and thick, brown or pale brown, yellow-brown on distal third; its anterior and posterior veins black, posterior one straight. Forewing with 10-14 Px. Ac at separation of anal vein. Space R<sub>4</sub>-MA with intercalaries starting at Px 2-4 and consisting of two long veins and several short distal ones.

Abdomen with metallic green to bronze dorsal band on all segments, but only on distal half of segment 1 and narrowed on 10. Segment 10 without crest, the distal invagination broad, shallow, edged with black denticles.

Anal appendages yellow, black at apices, or superiors black on distal half. Superior appendage gradually forcipate, the end portion rather strongly grooved, with pronounced outer denticles. Sub-basal tooth almost a right angle, well separated from flange. Flange straight, slightly kinked at distal end; edged with minute denticles. Inferior appendage extending over half as far as superior in side-view; broadly conical at base, depressed, with small inner fold; a flat distal extension narrowed to a fine point, the narrow apical portion out-turned and having a tuft of brown hair at the tip. Prophallic head with large, broadly rounded ligula with small sharp apical point. Terminal ridge notched.

Abd. 33-34 mm; hw. 23-24 mm; pt. 1,25-1,5 mm.

♀ (Morocco). Essentially similar. Prothoracic hind lobe broad. Mesostigmal lamina very narrow, yellow, with thick, straight, yellow posterior ridge. Forewing with 12-13 Px. Cerci yellowish. Ovipositor sheath brown, or brown with yellow base; mainly straight ventrally, denticulate for most of its length, more so on distal half. Vulvar scale simple.

Abd. 32-34 mm; hw. 24-25 mm.

(Selys (1862) gives abd. ♂ 26-34, ♀ 29-32 mm; hw. ♂ 21-24, ♀ 22-25 mm)

**Distribution.** Temperate and Southern Europe; Asia Minor, Iran, Turkestan, N.W. India; Egypt (Selys), Tangiers, Algeria (Martin), Morocco.

#### Material examined.

NMB: Morocco, El Jadida, March 1963 (J. A. Whellan)

Elsewhere:

USSRL: Algeria (Martin Colln).

Mature specimens, unlike *Lestes*, rest with wings closed. McLachlan (1902) quotes Selys (1888) as declaring *S. fusca* to be the only Odonate species he knew with certainty to undergo hibernation.

**Distribution.** East, central and southern Europe; North Africa and western Asia. Selys said mediterranean Africa, McLachlan recorded Tangiers, Martin Algeria and Lieftinck Morocco. Andrés included Egypt and Palestine; Cowley, from the Mediterranean islands.

#### Material examined.

##### NMB.

Italy: Paludi dell' Adige, Volano, Trentino, Apr. 1949.

France: La Foix, E. Pyrénées, Apr. 1937 (W. Fassnid).

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