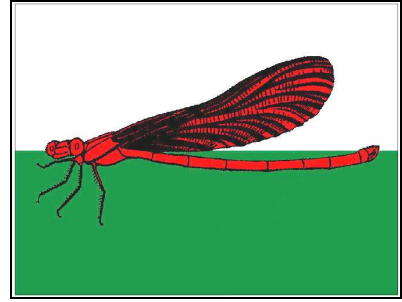


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NORTH WALES DRAGONFLY NEWSLETTER No. 71



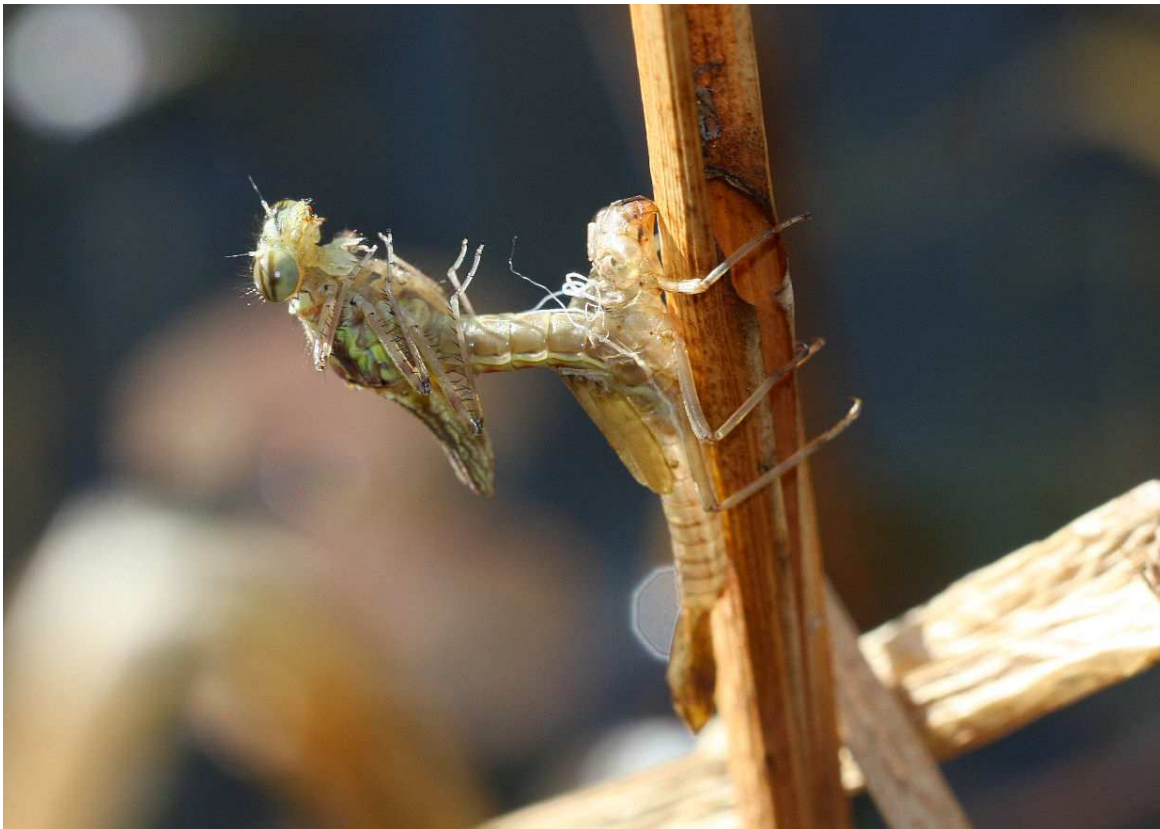
8th May 2013

Odonata news and events from across the vice counties of
Anglesey, Merionethshire, Caernarvonshire, Denbighshire and Flintshire



Hi all,

Beautiful Spring weather has arrived at last and brought on the emergence of *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* (Large Red Damselfly) exactly one month later than last year's event! About 8 adults emerged on the 6th May from my Rowen garden pond at the foot of Tal y Fan mountain (I can confidently say 'mountain' after confirmation from a recent survey that its summit lies a fraction of a foot over 2000 ft). Other species will now follow on in quick succession. Eifion Griffiths has just sent in a photo of a male Large Red he also saw on the 6th May at Rhuddlan NR. Its maturity suggests it must have emerged a day or two earlier. If you have records of earlier emergence in North Wales please let me know.



Pyrrhosoma nymphula female emergence, Rowen, 6th May 2013 (Photo A. Brandon).



Pyrrhosoma nymphula female emergence, Rowen, 6th May 2013 (Photo A. Brandon).



Pyrrhosoma nymphula teneral male, Rowen, 6th May 2013 (Photo A. Brandon). Its bright red coloration will develop later as in Eifion's photo below.



Mature male *P. nymphula*, Rhuddlan NR, 6th May 2013 (Photo Eifion Griffiths).

Snowdonia dragonfly event in June

As part of the Wales Biodiversity Week the following event will take place:

Monday 24th June 2013 (Booking essential)

Venue: Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, Merionethshire and Cors Geirch NNR and Tomen Fawr kettle hole, Lleyn Peninsular

Leader / contact: Gethin Davies 01766 772515, g.davies@eryri-npa.gov.uk;

Allan Brandon (allanrowenconwy@sky.com).

Aim: A joint BDS/Snowdonia NP outing to observe some of the rarer species in North Wales including Downy Emerald, Hairy Hawker, Scarce Blue-tailed Damsel, Variable Bluet and Small Red Damsel, as well as other species including Beautiful Demoiselle, Golden-ringed Dragon and Keeled Skimmer.

Meet: 10 am at the roadside car park [SH630372] along the lovely Llyn Tecwyn Isaf, above Cilfor village, south of Penrhyndeudraeth; then on to Cors Geirch NNR, Rhyd-y-clafdy [SH328349], Lleyn; finishing mid-afternoon at Tomen Fawr [SH453378]. A minibus will be laid on from Llyn Tecwyn Isaf but seats are limited and it is first come first served.

Requirements: Bring a packed lunch and essential wellies; nets & close-focusing bins optional but no dogs.

Dragonflies have an almost human capacity for selective attention

A recent article in the New York Times draws from a string of recent scientific papers and describes how dragonflies may well be the most effective hunters in the animal kingdom!

<http://www.nytimes.com/2013/04/02/science/dragonflies-natures-deadly-drone-but-pretier.html?hpw>

Here is another article on the same subject:

<http://news.yahoo.com/dragonfly-shows-human-power-concentration-000311471.html>

Allan

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