

Bugs & All

Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South-Asia (ICINSA)

Newsletter of the
Invertebrate Conservation & Information Network of South-Asia (ICINSA)

Odonates of Irinjalakuda ponds of central Kerala, India



One of the ponds sampled. Debris from the waste dumped can be seen floating (© Amitha Wilson).

Dragonflies and damselflies (Odonata) are good indicators of the freshwater ecosystem health because of their amphibious life history, relatively short generation time, high trophic position, and diversity (Corbet 1993). Ponds are home to a diverse community of specialized plants and animals and are hence of great conservation concern. Through land-use changes, ponds have been disappearing rapidly and the remaining ponds are often threatened by contamination and eutrophication, with negative consequences for pond-dependent taxa like Odonata (Janssen et al. 2018). Irinjalakuda is a municipal town in Thrissur

District, Kerala, India. Irinjalakuda has a number of public and private ponds like most parts of the state. Twenty man-made ponds with public access were selected randomly in and around Irinjalakuda for sampling odonates (Figure 1 & Table 1).

The fieldwork was done in the post-monsoon season (November 2019–February 2020). Each pond was visited between 09 AM and 11 AM in sunny weather. The observers walked along the banks of each pond at constant pace for 30 minutes and recorded the species and the number of individuals seen. All individual odonates observed