

ing on situations in alluvial swamp and peatswamp forests where the adults were particularly numerous and females had been observed ovipositing (localities described in Orr 2001). Other experienced collectors have lately sampled suitable habitat in Sarawak, again without success (Dow 2009; Dow & Reels 2009).

Recently, one of us (CYC), discovered a number of late stadium megapodagrionid larvae in a shallow, leafy, forest pool on the campus of the Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia (UKM), Bangi, West Malaysia. Several were bred to adulthood producing adults of both sexes of *P. orientalis*. The morphology of final stadium (F) larvae, and what we could discover of their habits are described here.

AREA AND METHODS

Larvae were found in a shallow leaf lined pool in a swampy low-lying patch of secondary forest on the UKM Bangi Campus. Adults were present at the site in moderate numbers, and the extent of suitable breeding habitat covered ca 0.5 ha. Larvae were collected using a dip net. Samples were taken from various depths of the pool, with locations of larvae noted. The vegetation of the surrounding area was also searched thoroughly for exuviae, to a height of 2 m.

Larvae collected were retained in the laboratory in plastic containers and fed on small tadpoles. Three individuals (2 ♂, 1 ♀) were allowed to emerge on sticks provided for this purpose. The remainder were preserved in absolute ethanol. Specimens were photographed in life, in the field and the laboratory using digital camera Canon EOS 300D. Preserved specimens were examined and dissected under a stereo microscope and figures prepared with the aid of a drawing tube.

LARVA OF *Podolestes orientalis* (Fig. 1, Plate IVb)

Specimens examined

5 ♂, F; 7 ♀, F; 4 ♂, F-2 or younger; 1 ♀, F-2 or younger. All collected 21-22 ii 2009, from UKM, Bangi Campus, Malaysia. 1 ♂ exuvia, same locality, 26 iv 2009.

Diagnosis

A moderately robust zygopteran with long legs and greatly expanded caudal lamellae set in the horizontal plane to form a broad fan, comprising about one third of the total body length (Fig. 1a, Plate IVb). Ground colour of body dark russet brown to light sepia; caudal lamellae with series of 3-4 indistinct lighter bands; legs paler brown with femora strongly and distinctively banded.

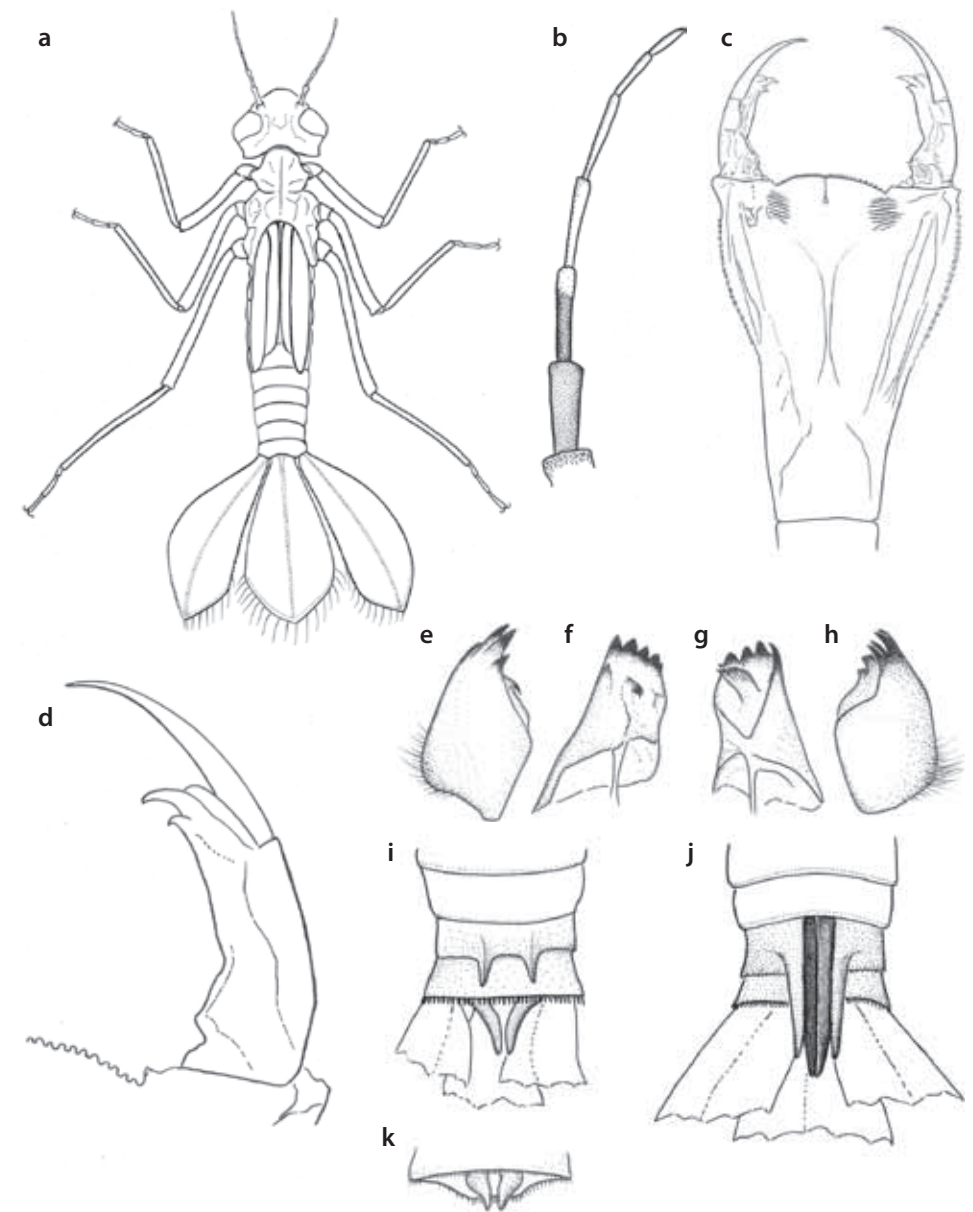


Figure 1: Details of the larva of *Podolestes orientalis* — (a) habitus of final stadium; (b) antenna; (c) prementum and labial palps, dorsal view; (d) detail of labial palp, ventral view; (e) right mandible, ventral view; (f) same, interior view; (g) left mandible, interior view; (h) same, ventral view; (i) ventral view of male abdomen showing gonapophyses and cerci; (j) ventral view of female abdomen showing gonapophyses; (k) ventral view of female S10 showing cerci, partly concealed by gonapophyses in intact specimens. Not to scale.