Abstract:

Crypsis is one of the defens mechanisms used by animals to hide from predators. It is a form of coloring that allows prey to blend in with their surroundings or makes difficult for predators to see them due to disruptive coloration. Dragonflies utilize crypsis across different families and sometimes even within individual species in various types of environments, ranging from savannas to tropical rainforests. Crypsis also serves as a defense mechanism not only against predators, but also against members of their own species, where females avoid sexual harassment from males and young males avoid fighting with adult males. This is related to changes in coloration during ontogenetic development, as well as the sometimes pronounced sexual dimorphism that is relatively common in dragonflies. Additionally, larvae of dragonflies are often cryptically colored. This study focuses on cryptically colored dragonflies from around the world and in various types of environments. Rather unexpectedly there are not many studies focing on this phenomena at otherwise throroughly studied group of insects.

Key words:

dragonflies, crypsis, cryptic coloration, sexual dimorphism, dragonflies larvae