

Scientific Note

New records of *Triacanthagyna trifida* (Odonata: Aeshnidae) from La Altagracia, Punta Cana, Dominican Republic

Nuevos registros de *Triacanthagyna trifida* (Odonata: Aeshnidae) para La Altagracia, Punta Cana, República Dominicana

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Abstract. The first records of *Triacanthagyna trifida* from La Altagracia are reported. These records extend the known geographic range of *Triacanthagyna trifida* to the eastern limit of Hispaniola.

Key words: Distribution, Dominican Republic, *Triacanthagyna trifida*.

Resumen. Se presentan los primeros registros de *Triacanthagyna trifida* para La Altagracia. Esta especie extiende su distribución geográfica conocida hasta el límite este de La Española.

Palabras clave: Distribución, República Dominicana, *Triacanthagyna trifida*.

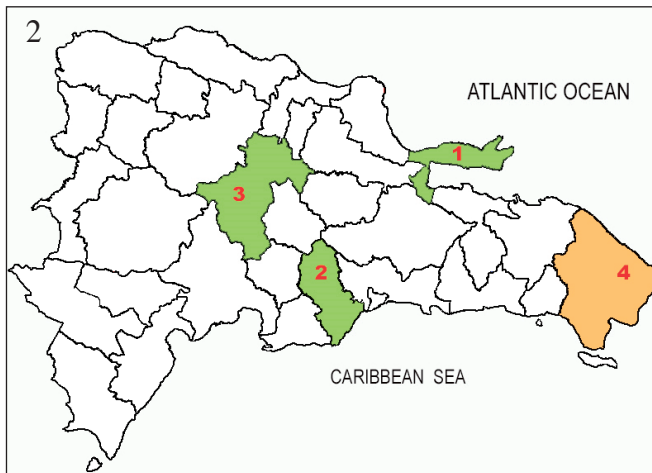
Hispaniola is the island of greatest hydrological wealth in the Greater Antilles (Bastardo and Sánchez-Rosario 2017). This natural geographic unit is shared by two countries, the Dominican Republic on the eastern two thirds (48,730 km²) and Haiti on the western one third. More than 8,200 species of arthropods have been catalogued from Hispaniola (Perez-Gelabert 2008). Bastardo and Sánchez-Rosario (2017) described the presence of a rich biota composed of 107 families of aquatic macroinvertebrates. With regard to the odonate fauna reported from Dominican Republic, there are few studies listing the species that inhabit it (Paulson 1982; Daigle 2003; Flint *et al.* 2006; Perez-Gelabert 2008). According to Flint *et al.* (2006), new species and occasional records (Fernández-Martínez 2004; Meurgey and Perron 2004; Torres-Cambas *et al.* 2015) increased the knowledge of the distribution and diversity of Odonata within the Dominican Republic to 68 species, of which only eight are endemic to the island. In spite of all the recent collections, the eastern half of the Dominican Republic is poorly sampled and not well known (Flint *et al.* 2006).

Von Ellenrieder and Garrison (2003) published a synopsis of the genus *Triacanthagyna* (Odonata: Aeshnidae) with keys and distribution maps of all known species. A pterothorax lacking dark stripes is sufficient to separate the male of *Triacanthagyna septima* (Selys, 1857) from other species of *Triacanthagyna*, known to occur on Hispaniola (von Ellenrieder and Garrison 2003; Flint *et al.* 2006) such as *T. trifida* Rambur, 1842. La Altagracia was one of the least studied among the Dominican provinces and only eight species had been recorded (Flint *et al.* 2006). This research establishes nine species of Odonata reported from La Altagracia province.

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Triacanthagyna trifida Rambur, 1842

Knowledge about the distribution and habits of the species of *Triacanthagyna* is usually difficult to acquire due to its crepuscular habits (Fernández-Martínez 2004). *Triacanthagyna trifida* has a rather limited distribution: from North Carolina through Florida in the southeastern United States, the Bahamas, and the four major Greater Antillean islands. This species has been recorded from La Vega (Calvert 1901-1908), Samaná and San Cristóbal (Flint *et al.* 2006) (Fig. 1). On September 02, 2010, we observed seven specimen of *T. trifida* active around a pond and perched on the vegetation of a tourist resort at sunset; Barceló Bávaro Palace (18°39'37,4" N, 68°23'43,3" W) (Fig. 1). The individuals were identified using the criteria in von Ellenrieder and Garrison (2003). Previously, on June 07, 2007, Damian Keith photographed this species on the exterior of another resort and forwarded the photograph to on an on-line platform (www.flickr.com). Both are the most recent observations of the species, represent the first records from La Altagracia province, and extends the known geographic range slightly east in Dominican Republic (Fig. 2).



Figures 1-2. 1. Habitat where *Triacanthagyna trifida* were observed flying around the natural ponds at a resort in La Altagracia province (18°39'37,4" N, 68°23'43,3" W), on September 02, 2010. 2. Geographical location of historical records of occurrence of *Triacanthagyna trifida* in Dominican Republic: 1. Samaná (Calvert (1901-1908)); 2. San Cristóbal (1969, according to Flint *et al.* (2006)); 3. La Vega (Daigle 2003); 4. La Altagracia (2007 and 2010, present study).

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