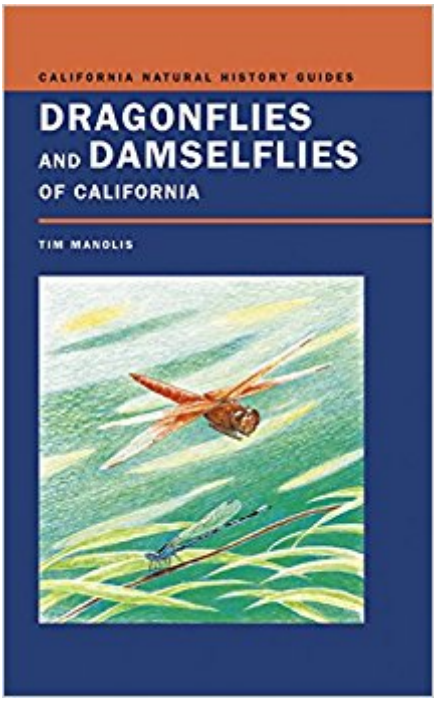
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Dragonflies And Damselflies Of California



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Synopsis

The Exclamation Damsel, Bison Snaketail, Powdered Dancer, Black Meadowhawk, and Sedge Sprite are just a few of the dragonflies and damselflies identified in this complete guide to CaliforniaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s abundant Odonates.o Species accounts discuss identification in the field and in the hand, behavior, habitat associations, geographic distribution, and flight seasono Includes 40 vivid full-color plates and supplemental black-and-white drawingso Provides a general overview of dragonfly anatomy, behavior, life history, and a complete set of range maps

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

"This attractive book, with its beautiful paintings and authoritative text, should be in the library of all Californians interested in nature.""This is now the book on all the California Odonates and should ride in the pack of every naturalist, butterflier, and birder in the American west from May through October."

"A book that will both educate and delight anyone who wants to know more about these fascinating insects. Packed with facts but written in a straightforward style, the book makes CaliforniaÃ¢â ¬â„¢s 108 dragonfly and damselfly species easily accessible. . . . It will engender a renewed appreciation of the value of our wetlands."—Dennis Paulson, author of Dragonflies of Washington"This is now the book on all the California Odonates and should ride in the pack of every naturalist, butterflier, and birder in the American west."—Rich Stallcup, Point Reyes Bird

Observatory

I’m not sure how to rate this one. If you’re an entomologist looking for a definitive scholarly work on California dragonflies and damselflies, you’ll want this -- I’d give it five stars for that. The author really, really knows his stuff. It’s not generally an easy read, but it is thorough and, well, scholarly.However, if you’re looking for a usable field guide, this is most definitely not it. If that’s what you’re seeking, I’d give it zero stars.Hence, my 3-star rating: (5+0)/2 = 2.5, and I rounded up because Mr. Manolis’s book is very good for the purpose for which he wrote it. I just want to let people know not to hope it will be of much help in the field.

Tim Manolis has written a great book about dragons and damsels, and you can feel his passion for the subjects if you really read the book rather than use it as a field guide. However, as Tim himself has said, distinguishing between various damsels and dragons can be very difficult. In fact, he often states that you have to catch the darn things to actually see the difference from one to another.My hobby is nature photography, and it’s difficult to put photos up on my Web site without some titles or classification. When it came to dragonflies and damselflies, I first turned to Tim’s book, then to Tim. The book contains some very good illustrations and, while I understand and appreciate the cost, I wish that photographs had been used, at least for the most common California bugs. These are small insects with minor variations between males, but major differences and variations among females.Tim was gracious enough to answer my first three questions about classifications and, not wanting to bug him so to speak, I turned to [...]. Though Tim has the Pacific or California Forktail in the book, I could not match the three photos that I took with any illustrations in the book. That is not the author’s fault. Again, I don’t know how one can know so much about these insects (and this author doesn’t "specialize" just in insects).I’ll give it four stars because of the quality of writing and the number of illustrations. I’ll take off one star because it’s almost overwhelming, while the other reviews and even the book gives the impression that this will be easier than it is. Actually, I’ll take off half a star because the covers of the book are made in such a way that when open, they cut into the inside of your thumbs. Minor, but not on a long hot day sitting by a pond with the book. Don’t let any of this deter you from buying the book. If you really want to know about damsels and dragons in California, this is the best.

This is a really neat and very reasonably priced book on dragonflies and damselflies. I liked it from the first time I saw it. The color illustrations are great and with the short descriptions are very helpful

for identifying the families, genera and species. The size of the book is also just right for transport into the field.I checked the book against our list for New Mexico and found that close to 1/2 of our dragonflies and damselflies are described! The handbook should thus be useful in Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon and northwestern Mexico, as well as the target- California.For the price and quality the dragonfly and damselfly enthusiast in the Southwest could not find a better field reference!

Anyone in California (or visiting California) who has ever shown any interest in dragonflies and/or damselflies should own this wonderful new book! It not only contains traditional keys to the insect families of both adults and larvae, but also a well-written narrative about the behavior and life cycle of these ancient and most interesting creatures. If you are one who prefers to "picture key" your way to an identification, that is possible, as well, thanks to Tim Manolis's beautiful color illustrations. If you are looking at this book, don't hesitate...buy it...you won't be sorry!

Starting a odonate project for th e CDFA and this is exactly what I needed. Thank you

This is a decent book for California only odes. The information provided is good. This book features art over photographs which has its advantages. I prefer photos though. Tim Manolis is a well known dragonfly authority.

Disappointing. Not as in-depth as I was hoping. Would have liked real pictures rather than drawings. There are better books on this subject with more information.

It covers most common dragonflies and damselflies of California. But at the same time this can be a introduction for the western fauna. Follow up illustration to identify similar species is also intelligible to everybody.

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