Eighteenth Century Dragonfly Records from New York
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In an old publication, Houtonuy (1766) explains, in Dutch, the visual appearance of the various dragonfly species that had been described and/or illustrated up until that time. With the species listed by Linnaeus (1758) as a starting point, he discusses texts and illustrations by Ray (1710), Swammerdam (1735), Reamur (1742), Roesel (1746-1762), Edwards (1758-1764), Geoffroy (1762) and notes by Daniel Rolander.

In his paper he also includes a plate showing drawings produced by a friend, Mr. J. Admiral. On this plate eight species are very clearly and accurately drawn, and several of these illustrations have been identified right up to species level. The text states that these specimens on which the drawings were based are all from abroad (i.e. not from The Netherlands); they are also described as ‘very rare’ and ‘never been illustrated before’. The rarity value will no doubt have made the plate more attractive to readers, though this is, of course, unsupported by any firm evidence.

The eight specimens illustrated (Fig. 1) had been sent to Admiral from three locations: four from ‘Nieuw York’ (New York; nos. 1, 2, 3 and 4), two from Oostindien (that is the time East Indies, now Indonesia and surrounding islands; nos. 5 and 6) and two from Surinam (nos. 7 and 8). The identities of these eight species are as follows:

1. Later described as Lethelia semilascia
   Burmeister, 1839 (Painted Skimmer)
2. Later described as Lethelia pulchella
   Drury, 1773 (Tawny-spotted Skimmer)
3. Later described as Phaethon fulva
   (Drury, 1773) (Common Whitetail)
4. Thama carolina Linnaeus (1763)
   (Carolina Saddlebag)
5. Neuroptera sp.
6. Lethelia modesta
7. Later described as Mucinagaster hortense
   (Drury, 1773)
8. Heiserrina sp.

The four species collected from New York can be compared with later lists of Odonata recorded from this location. Phaethon fulva (Common Whitetail) has been reported from New York by USGS (2004), and Thama carolina (Carolina Saddlebag) has been reported by Calvert (1895) from the vicinity of New York City, though it was described as ‘not common’. The other two species are mentioned in both publications. So all species depicted by Admiral have been found in or around New York on later occasions as well [Editor’s note: OdonataCentral shows Lethelia semilascia, L. pulchella, and P. fulva as widely distributed in New York state; the majority of records for Thama carolina are in and near Long Island.]

Several American dragonflies has been described by Linnaeus (1758), with the type locality given simply as America; Only in the case of the Carolina Saddlebags described by Linnaeus in 1763 is more information provided, the type locality here given as ‘Carolina’ (Paulson and Durisko, 2012). The specimens used by Linnaeus during the writing of Centuria Insectorum in 1763 include some provided by Dr. Alexander Gardner, a horticulturist from ‘Charles Town in the Province of South Carolina’ (Wikipedia, 2014). So this type locality for T. carolina might more specifically refer to Charleston, South Carolina.

Calvert (1895) describes the understanding of the Odonata of New York up until 1895. The oldest publication he refers to is by Emmons (1854). Both Calvert (1895) and Houtonuy (1766) did not give a year of capture for the species discussed. However, it seems likely that the four Lethelidae illustrated by Mr. J. Admiral in Houtonuy (1766) are amongst the oldest records where it is known from whence individuals had been collected, in this case dating back to the years just before 1766. They are certainly among the oldest records for New York, and probably also for the USA as well.

Acknowledgments
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References
Roesel von Rosenhof, A.L. 1746–1752. Monatliche Insec-
ten-behauptigungen, Nuremberg.
Swammerdam, J. 1733. Beyl de nature de historie der insecten, tot zekere zooreen gebrachte door voorbeelden, ontledendelijke onderzoekingen van veelhe-
hande kleine gedierten, als ook door kynistige kopere planten opgeheffen. Verrykt met senttebatse waarnemingen van roost omtalde zeldzaamheden in de nature. Alle in de hollande, des auteurs meertdaer, beschriften.