

Paul-André Robert and his life's work on dragonfly larvae



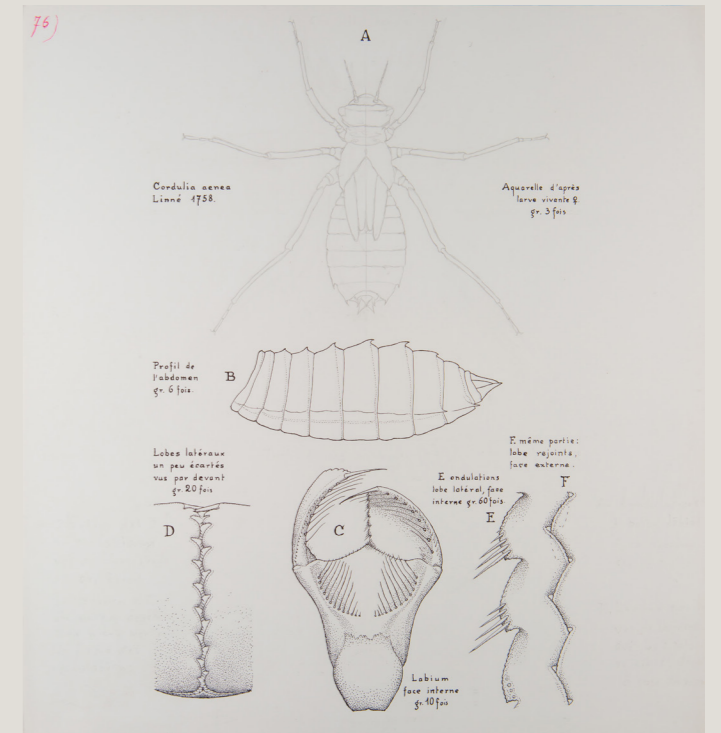
The book is to be produced in A4 format and comprises approximately 400 pages. The text is trilingual: French, German, and English. The extensive introduction of about 100 pages will include contributions from odonatological experts, the Robert Collection Foundation and Paul-André's son and daughter. This section will provide information on:

- The history of the Robert family and their art.
- Paul-André as a painter and entomologist, his education, his skills for precise observation and painstaking depiction.
- The importance of his publications for entomology in general and odonatology in particular.

The Swiss painter and dragonfly researcher Paul-André Robert (1901-1977) is well known in Europe for his book "Les Libellules" that appeared in 1958. However, what is less well known is that Paul-André began to work on a monumental monograph on European dragonfly larvae at the age of sixteen. The manuscript, which consists of texts and illustrations, consumed most of his life and was only just completed at the time of his death.

After several failed posthumous attempts, there is now a great opportunity for this work to be published as a significant collectors' item for those interested in high quality entomological books. If there is sufficient interest then the book could be available by the end of 2016.

The main focus of this magnificent work will be the 107 water colour illustrations of larvae which are of incredible beauty and scientific precision. In addition, there are numerous line drawings and pencil sketches of morphological details, descriptions and a key for identification. In summary this work is a unique combination of art and science; the water colour illustrations will be reproduced in their original size; the detail drawings slightly reduced.



In addition, from his own notes and the recollections of his children, we will learn about Paul-André's passion and commitment for dragonflies; how and where he collected larvae; his techniques for rearing from egg to imago and how he observed growth and behaviour in their natural habitat as well in the aquarium. A further chapter outlines the scientific importance of this monograph.

The larval paintings and drawings will occupy about 150 pages with a similar number for the descriptions and key. The work concludes with a bibliography and index of Odonata names.

More examples of the water colour paintings:
<http://www.bureaubiota.com/robert.pdf>

The website of the Robert Collection Foundation gives more information on Paul-André and his family: <http://www.collection-robert.ch/>

The book is to be edited by Christophe Brochard together with an international team of scientific experts. The publisher will be KNNV Publishing, Zeist.

Thanks to the free copyright offered by the Robert Collection Foundation, the voluntary collaboration of the team of authors and the courtesy of the Publisher, the book will be available for around 80 Euro. However, in order to achieve this price, a minimum print run of at least 300 copies is required.

It must be emphasized that this important work can only be published with your advanced help. You do not need to send any money now but, if you are interested in this book and making this important publishing event happen, please contact: one of the following, expressing your interest and the number of copies that would like.

- France: Société Française d'Odonatologie: email: cedvana@free.fr
- Germany: Dieter Prestel: email: nibuk@nibuk.de
- Switzerland: Centre Suisse de Cartographie de la Faune: email: secretariat.cscf@unine.ch
- England: British Dragonfly Society: email: hcdragon@btopenworld.com
- Netherlands: Nederlandse Vereniging voor Libellenstudie: email: secretaris.nvl@gmail.com
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