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ABUNDANCE AND DIVERSITY OF ODONATA IN FIVE RIVERS OF TAMIL NADU

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ABSTRACT : Eighteen species of Odonata (10 species of Anisoptera and 8 species of Zygoptera) belonging to 13 genera under 5 families were recorded from 5 rivers *viz.*, Cauvery (Mettur, Salem district), Kiliyanur (Yercaud, Salem district), Thoppiar (Thoppur, Dharmapuri district), Bhavani (Mettupalayam, Coimbatore district) and Kallar (Coonoor, The Nilgiris district) in Tamil Nadu. Anisoptera was abundant in Cauvery and Kallar rivers while Zygoptera dominated Thoppiar and Bhavani rivers and both were in equal proportions in Kiliyanur river. *Diplacodes trivialis* (Rambur) among Anisoptera and *Pseudagrion microcephalum* (Rambur) among the Zygoptera were the most abundant. Species diversity was maximum in both Cauvery and Kallar rivers and minimum in Thoppiar river.

Keywords : *Abundance, Anisoptera, diversity, Odonata, river, Zygoptera*