

OVIPOSITION BEHAVIOR OF THE DAMSELFLY RHODISHNURA NURSEI IN CENTRAL INDIA

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ABSTRACT: *Rhodishnura nursei* is one of the most elusive, docile and endemic damselfly of India. It exhibits solitary, non-guarding, endophytic oviposition behavior late in the afternoon at the banks of a large water-body in central India. It inserts eggs in the plant material about 4-7 inches above the ground level, by curving its abdomen upwards and striking down forcefully at the leaf base of tall grasses near the bank. As a rule, it undertakes only two bouts of oviposition at every site and then flies to a different site within a radius of one meter. A single session of oviposition lasts for 105 + 12 seconds. Isolation of eggs in space and time during oviposition leads to lesser intraspecific competition among growing larvae, which ultimately increases their chances of survival.

Keywords: *Damselfly, Odonata, Oviposition, Rhodishnura nursei*