It has often struck me that members of the coenagrionid genus *Ceriagrion* appear to be unusually voracious predators of other zygopterans. However, an observation that I made two years ago indicated that one species, at least, is even capable of reckless acts of cannibalism.

At ca 1030h on 25 July 2008 I was walking along a small stream at Luk Keng, N.T., Hong Kong (altitude ca. 20 m asl) when I noticed a male *Ceriagrion auranticum* (Zygoptera: Coenagrionidae) grappling with a mature female of the same species. The male had seized the female’s thorax just above the wing bases with his mandibles (Figure 1). At first I assumed that this was simply a clumsy mating attempt, particularly since the female was making little obvious effort to free herself. However, in the ensuing five minutes, the male, rather than letting go and trying to mate, proceeded to munch his way up the female’s thorax, until he reached the pronotum. The entangled pair made several short flights during this period, possibly because I was disturbing them while trying to photograph the action, or maybe because the female, having realised she was not hosting an amorous suitor, was belatedly attempting to escape. The male then spent some time chewing through the female’s head attachment until her head fell off (Figure 2). Then he dragged the body to another perch to devour the thorax (Figure 3). Gruesome stuff.

This act of intraspecific predation (or, more simply, cannibalism) was, I believe, quite remarkable. As briefly summarised by Corbet (1999; p. 368), intraspecific predation in Odonata usually involves a mature adult predating a teneral individual that is unable to perform threat behaviour, with males predominating as prey. In this instance, the victim was a fully mature female; slightly larger than its attacker. Unexpectedly, the male’s desire to obtain a good meal seems to have overridden its mating instinct. Did it fail to recognise its victim as a viable mate? Did it start off with mating intentions and then suddenly decide it fancied a snack? Whatever the reason, it seems that sexual predators are not confined to *Homo sapiens*.

**Reference**