



The first record of a female Azur sprite (*Pseudagrion decorum*) from Sri Lanka

The Azur sprite or elegant sprite (*Pseudagrion decorum* Rambur, 1842) is a medium-sized damselfly belonging to the Family Coenagrionidae. This species exhibits sexual dimorphism: males are pale blue in colour with three fine black lines on the mid-dorsum, whereas females are more greenish to yellowish in colour on the thorax (De Fonseca 2000, Nair 2011). It is a common, widespread species in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, and Nepal (Kalkman *et al.* 2020). In Sri Lanka, *P. decorum* is very rare (van der Poorten 2011); with one male recorded from a tank near Mannar in the Northern Province (Bedjjanic *et al.* 2014, van der Poorten 2011).

We observed a male on 21 September 2023 at 09:22 h at the Ariviyal Nagar, Kilinochchi (9.316475°N, 80.39958°E). The male perched on an *Anacardium occidentale* (Anacardiaceae) leaf and flew away. On 06 February 2024 at 12:54 h at the same locality, we observed a female perched on an *Elephantopus tomentosus* (Asteraceae) leaf (Fig. 1). Since *P. decorum* is a widespread and migratory species, both Fraser (1933) and De Fonseca (2000) assumed it could be found in the lowlands in Sri Lanka. However, one male was the only previous record for this species, and our observation is the first record of the female.



Figure 1. The female *Pseudagrion decorum* on the *Elephantopus tomentosus* (Asteraceae) leaf

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