



THE DRAGONFLIES OF LEDIBENG (PART 2)

These dragonfly pictures were taken at the big dam located on the north eastern side of the Estate.

Dragonflies photographed on the Estate



This particular dragonfly is called a **Vagrant Emperor** or *Anax ephippiger*. The dragonfly on the right is the male and the one on the left is the female. This picture was taken whilst the female was busy laying her eggs in the water amongst the vegetation. The individuals of this dragonfly species are very difficult to photograph because they continuously fly around and are almost never seen sitting.



This dragonfly is the female of the species called the **Banded Groundling** or *Brachythemis leucosticta*. This particular dragonfly is often seen sitting on the ground and is not seen flying over large bodies of water. They hunt entirely on land. The males have dark brown bands across the wings. A picture of the male can be seen in the previous issue.



This dragonfly is a teneral male of the species called the **Red Groundling** or *Brachythemis lacustris*. The term 'teneral' refers to a dragonfly that has recently emerged from the nymphal skin.



This dragonfly is called a **Barbet** or *Diplacodes luminans*. This species is fairly common in Africa except for the Cape region and rainforest areas.



This dragonfly is called a **Long Skimmer** or *Orthetrum trinacria*. It occurs all over Africa and Europe. It is usually associated with large rivers, wetlands and swamps.

LURKING BELOW THE WATER SURFACE

This creature is called a **Common Water Scorpion** or *Laccotrephes* and belongs to the order *Hemiptera* (*Bugs with piercing or sucking mouthparts*).

It is usually found in shallow stagnant water where it will hide amongst the vegetation awaiting to ambush prey such as tadpoles and small fish. When the prey comes within striking distance the water scorpion will use its grabbing pinchers to grab the prey. The tail section is used as a siphon and through this, air flows to the tracheae located at the end of the abdomen.

A water scorpion can go without air for up to 30 minutes. Although this creature is called a water scorpion it does not have a sting and is thus harmless to humans. What is very interesting about this creature is the fact that although it has wings it will only fly when taken out of the water and left in the sun. This is the only situation that will force them to fly.



How many times have you hiked in the bush and came across some activity like on the picture above. Few people would even pay attention to it. Some people might come to the conclusion that something was digging around, possibly for food.

The various markings on the picture below are a clear indication of what kind of animal was responsible for this. Let's start with the first question: Which animals have to dig to find food? The following species comes to mind: porcupine, warthog, antbear, mongoose, bushpig and baboon. The second question: Which of these animals have a significant tail that can possibly drag and leave marks on the ground? These tail marks are indicated by the black arrows on the picture. The answer to this second question brings us to a baboon and an antbear.



The third question is: Which one of these two animals is most likely to have its tail dragging on the ground when digging the hole? This brings us to the antbear. The hole was made whilst in the process of digging for termites.

THE EYE IN THE SKY (OR ON THE GROUND)

These pictures were taken by one of the many trail cameras located on the Estate.



Wildlife Quiz (Part 3)



1.	A crocodile can stay submerged in water for up to 30 minutes.		True or False
2.	A tortoise cannot swim.		True or False
3.	An Egyptian Goose will breed in a nest located in a tree		True or False
4.	A spider has six legs in total.		True or False
5.	A plant known as an oleander is poisonous.		True or False
6.	All grasshoppers can fly.		True or False
7.	Some Marula trees are male and some are female.		True or False
8.	A bat is considered a mammal.		True or False
9.	The tusks of a warthog is considered ivory.		True or False
10.	Wasps can produce honey.		True or False



Answers: 1.(True), 2.(False), 3.(True), 4.(False), 5.(True), 6.(False), 7.(True), 8.(True), 9.(False), 10.(False).

From your Wildlife Management Team



For information on property sales contact:
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We would like to hear your story!

Should you have an event or story you would like to share, please send us your photos and a few words to **wildlife@lantic.net**