Reporting of Habitats Directive:

assessment of the conservation status of French Odonata





Florence MERLET¹, Xavier HOUARD¹ & Renaud PUISSAUVE²

¹Office pour les insectes et leur environnement (Opie) florence.merlet@insectes.org; xavier.houard@insectes.org

> ²Muséum national d'Histoire naturelle (MNHN) puissauve@mnhn.fr





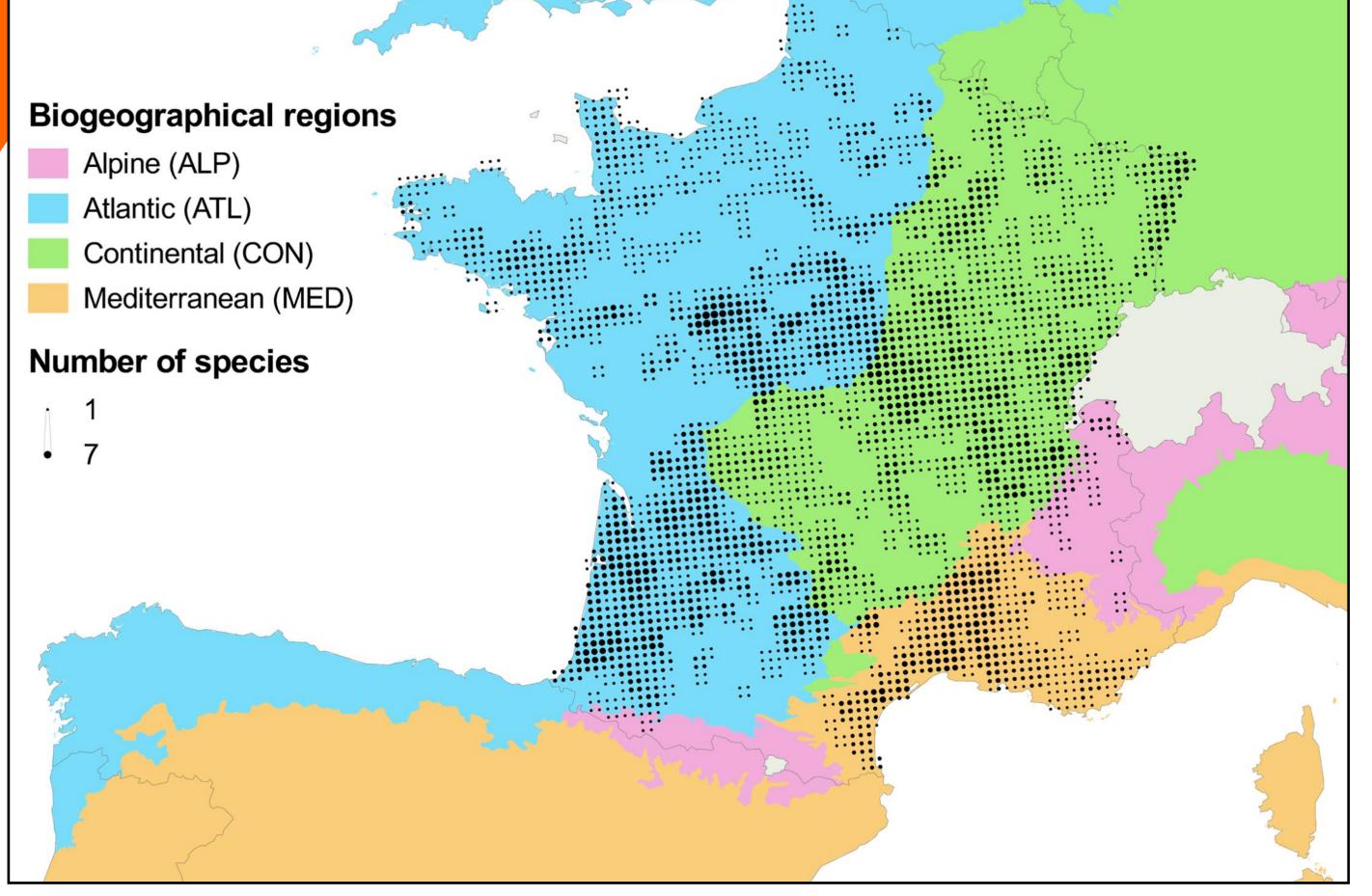
et de l'Énergie

Every six years, all Member States are requested by the Habitats Directive to assess the conservation status of habitats and species of community interest for each biogeographical region.

The difference between the two reports is mainly due to the enhancement of knowledge. In part thanks to the National Action Plan for Odonata, new prospects and best exchanges in odonatologists network have allowed to double the 10 km grid cells.

Nature of change in the conservation status between the reports:

Genuine change Different methods No change



Numbers of Odonata species of community interest by 10x10 km grid in France and biogeographical regions as defined by the Habitats Directive.

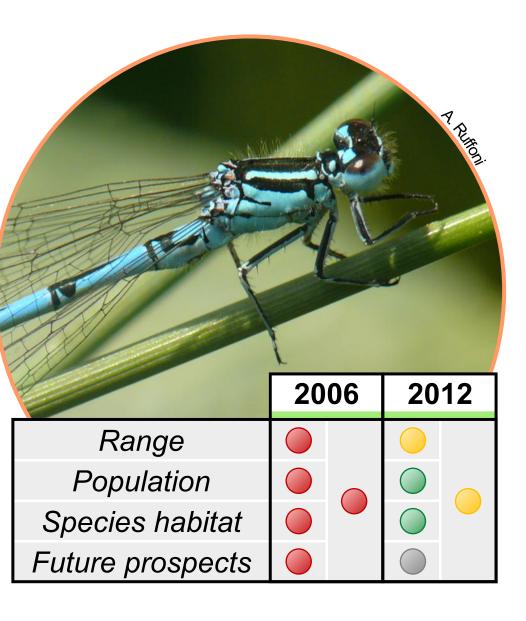
In France, 10 Odonata species are assessed in the biogeographical regions where they are non-marginally present. For each of 26 species-region couples, four parameters are evaluated thanks to several questions:

More accurate data

Population's parameters and future prospects are still often unknown. This uncertainty is better taken into account than in 2006, when the lack of knowledge was balanced by expert opinion, necessarily more subjective.

Few examples of knowledge improvement...

Coenagrion ornatum illustrates the most frequent case: a pretence of improvement. His real conservation status is not necessarily better but our vision is more accurate, especially about the range and the habitat.



- **Range**: current area, short and long term trends...
- **Population**: size estimation, short and long term trends...
- **Species habitat**: area occupied, quality, suitable habitat...
- Future prospects: pressures and threats, future trend and future status estimation (expert judgements)...

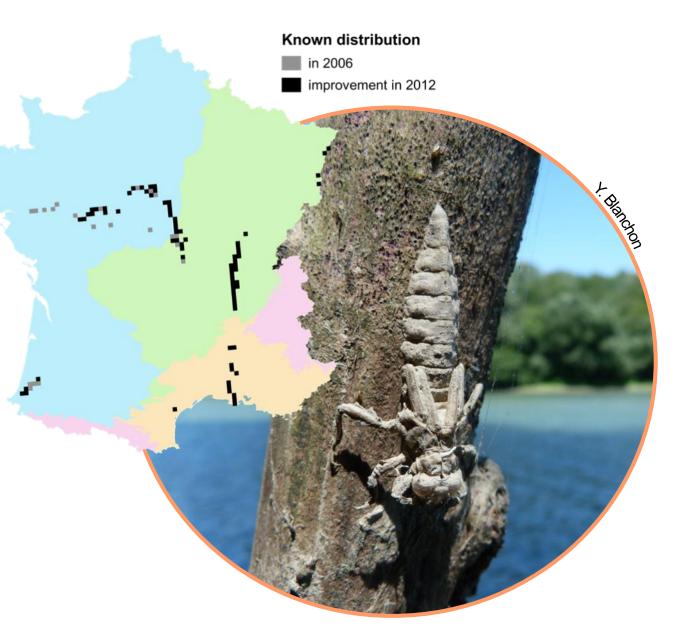
These assessments are synthetized by four status (see table's legend below) and are combined to obtain the conservation status of the species-region couple.

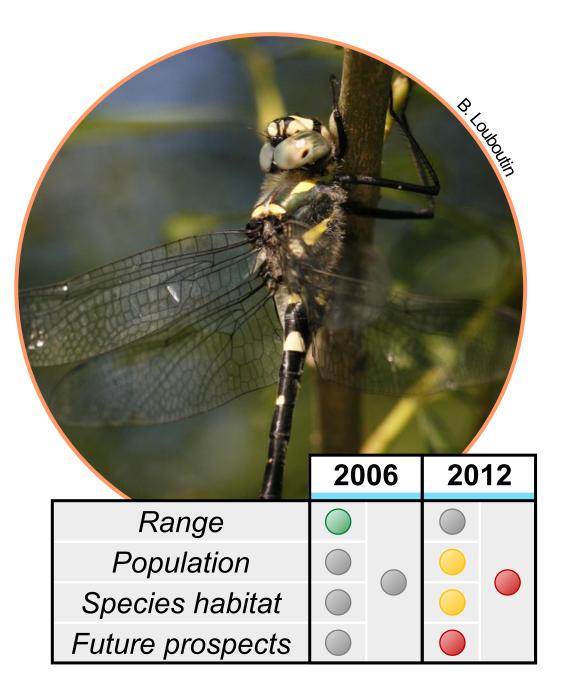
Two reports have been so far completed (2006 and 2012). The table below shows the results.

| | 2006 | | | | 2012 | | | |
|-------------------------|------|-----|-----|-----|----------|-----|-----|------------|
| | ALP | ATL | CON | MED | ALP | ATL | CON | MED |
| Coenagrion mercuriale | | | | | | | | |
| Coenagrion ornatum | | | | | | | | |
| Gomphus flavipes | | | | | | | | \bigcirc |
| Gomphus graslinii | | | | | | | | |
| Leucorrhinia albifrons | | | | | | | | |
| Leucorrhinia caudalis | | | | | Marginal | | | |
| Leucorrhinia pectoralis | | | | | | | | |
| Macromia splendens | | | | | | | | |
| Ophiogomphus cecilia | | | | | | | | |
| Oxygastra curtisii | | | | | Marginal | | | \bigcirc |

Gomphus flavipes was previously known only from the Atlantic and Continental regions. With its discovery on the river Rhône, the Mediterranean region was added to the assessment and assessed with Favourable status.

The *Macromia splendens*' status was considered as unknown in 2006 in the Atlantic region. But the monitoring of populations and habitats is now sufficient to assign the Unfavourable-inadequate status to population and habitat, and the Unfavourable-Bad status to the future prospects.





The four status assigned to each parameter and species-region couple:

Favourable

Unknown

Unfavourable-Inadequate Unfavourable-Bad

In 2018, for the next report, the knowledge should be even better and therefore the assessment even more precise. Because of the consistency of the methodology, results could be compared over time. The implementation of a large-scale monitoring would also help us to better understand the trends and thus to better estimate the parameters.

Ministère de l'Écologie, du Développement durable et de l'Énergie

odonates.pnaopie.fr