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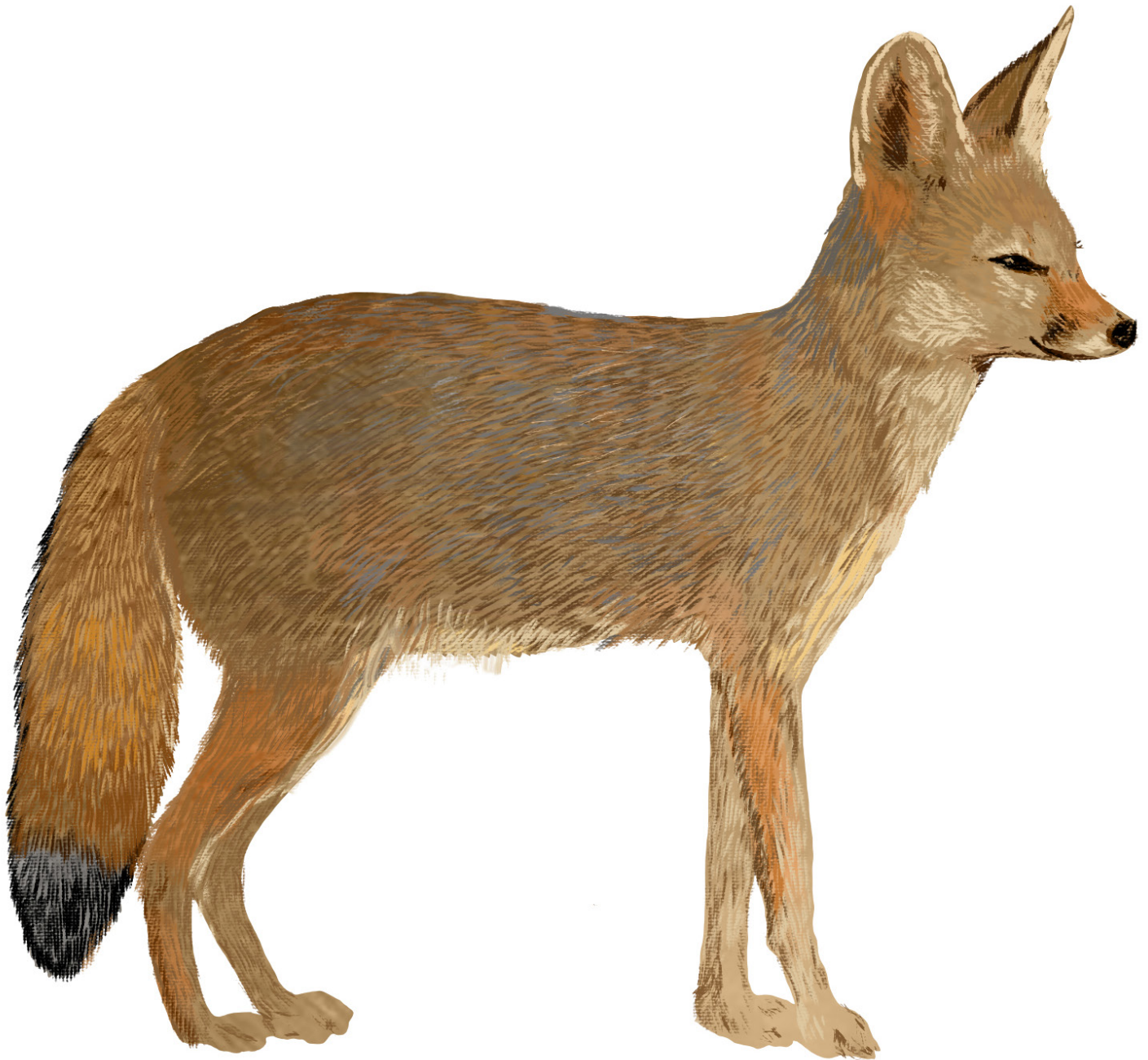
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continued on the back inside cover

Cover: Bengal Fox *Vulpes bengalensis*—digital illustration. © Alagu Raj.



This paper presents *O. sabina* feeding on *N. tullia* Pied Paddy Skimmer, which elaborates on the evidence of the species' feeding behavior.

## MATERIALS AND METHODS

The observation was made during the field survey of Odonata in Maidi Lake (one of the lakes in the lake clusters of Pokhara Valley and a Ramsar site) on 30 July 2022 (Image 1). The lake covers an area of 5 ha of water body and a watershed of 160.11 ha. Odonata data was collected by direct observation along transects (Ausden & Drake 2006). Three transects, 200 m each, were laid along the existing trails around the lake to collect data from the end of July to December 2022, once a month, totaling six replications (three other lakes were also surveyed during the project). Each transect was surveyed by walking fixed routes/transects; specimens were seen ahead and 5 m (2.5 m on either side of the transect) were noted (Ausden & Drake 2006; Miya et al. 2021). The study was conducted from 1000 h to 1500 h on sunny days (Pearce-Higgins & Chandler 2020; Batista et al. 2021). The individual feeding on *N. tullia*

was photographed with a smartphone (Samsung Galaxy A10) and identified later with the help of field guides (Emiliyamma et al. 2005; Nair 2011). The site map was created using ArcMap 10.8.2, and Image 2 was created using CorelDRAW 9.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This paper illustrates *O. sabina* feeding on *N. tullia* (Image 2). Both species belong to the family Libellulidae. The *O. sabina* started to chew the *N. tullia* from the head, and continued below the body parts while holding it with its forelegs and perching on a herbaceous plant. It didn't fly away even when we approached to take a photograph. Feeding lasted more than 15 mins and was observed about 3 m away from the water body (28.175°N & 84.083°E). *O. sabina* is known to be a predator that even feeds on its own species, and it is not uncommon for it to feed on other species. This particular observation adds to the numerous photographic records of the species preying on other libellulids on the internet. There are photographs in the iNaturalist of *O. sabina* feeding on its own species,

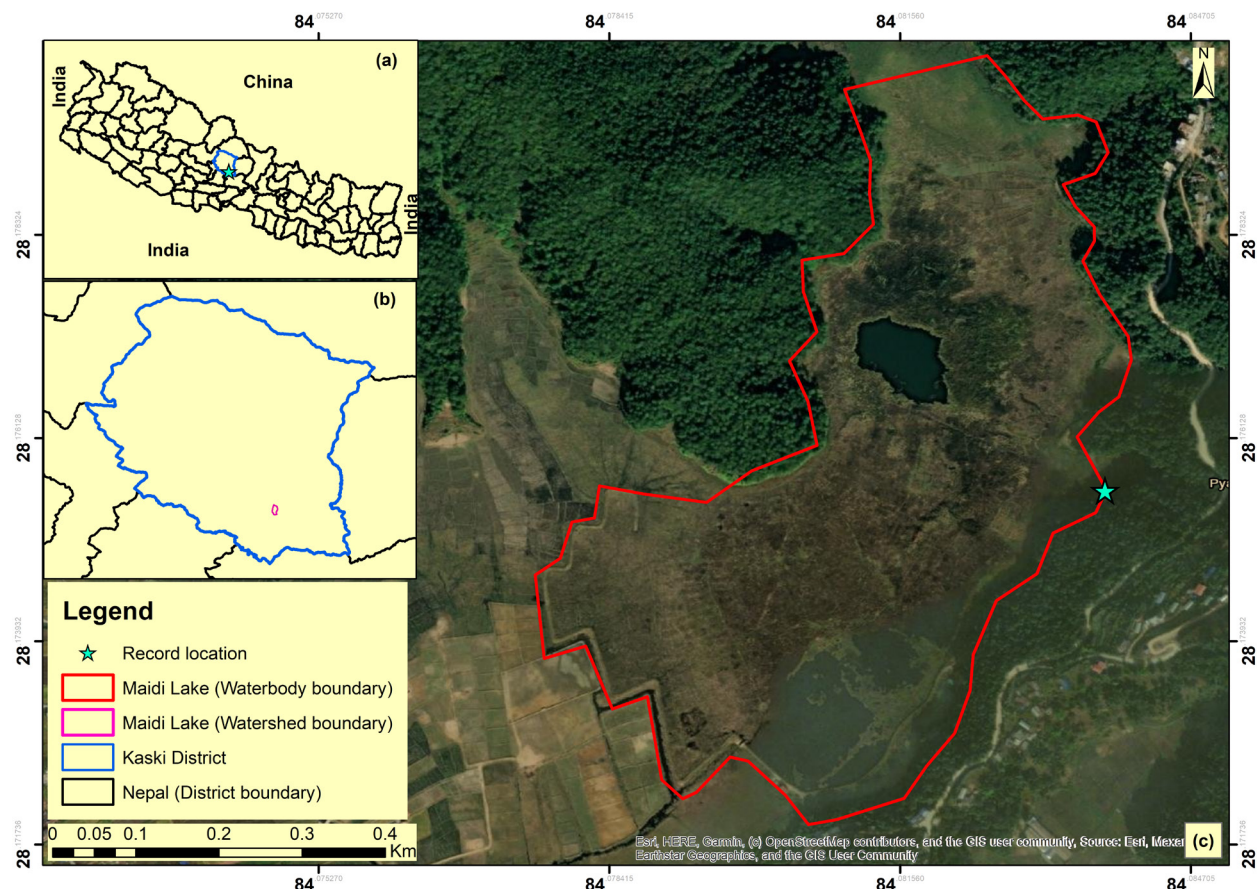


Image 1. The study area map: a—Map of Nepal showing district boundary | b—Map of Kaski District showing watershed boundary of Maidi Lake | c—Record location within the boundary of Maidi Lake.



Image 2. a & b—*Orthetrum sabina* feeding on *Neurothemis tullia* | c—*N. tullia* female | d—Maidi lake.

recorded in Bharatpur, Nepal (Hazenbergh 2018) and Indonesia (Jones 2017).

Previous studies have reported *O. sabina* also feeding on smaller Zygoptera (damselflies). This seems less common, presumably because they do not provide sufficient food for the effort. It was reported to feed on *Ischnura senegalensis* in western India (Fraser 1924) and *Asiagrion hisopa* in the Nilgiris, India (Fraser 1936). Similar behavior of preying on other Odonata has been reported in different locations in India, Sri Lanka, Singapore, and Nepal. In their study, Gamage et al. (2023) noted that the species feeding on *N. tullia* in Sri Lanka was similar to our finding. Additionally, the Bird Ecology Study Group (2024) reported *O. sabina* feeding on *Rhyothemis triangularis*, *Neurothemis fluctuans*, and *Acisoma panorpoides* in Singapore, and on *Neurothemis fulvia* in India (Jose 2011). Another study by Larsen (1990) documented the species feeding

on the *Caprona ransonnettii potiphera* butterfly in India. Similarly, a video on YouTube shows the species feeding on *Rhyothemis variegata* (Karle 2020). Prasad & Biswas (1980) and Thumboor (2017) found the species feeding on *Acisoma panorpoides* in West Bengal and Thrissur, India. Furthermore, Mitra (1999) observed the species feeding on *Agriocnemis pygmaea* and *Ceriagrion coromandelianum* in India. A study in Nepal reported *Neurothemis tullia* feeding on *Ischnura rubilio*, *Brachythemis contaminata* feeding on *Ceriagrion coromandelianum*, and *Orthetrum pruinatum* feeding on *N. tullia* (Sharma & Oli 2022). The observation of *O. sabina* preying on *N. tullia* was encountered during the ectoparasites study of dragonflies and damselflies from Palpa district, Nepal (Sharma & Oli 2020); however, the feeding activity is not highlighted or expanded. Previous literature and the current observation confirm the species' diverse range of larger prey species, providing

valuable information for further assessment of the species.

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