

## Materials and Methods

**Collecting and Preserving Dobsonflies.** Adult dobsonflies are generally attracted to lights. It is quite common in tropical countries to find them at night resting on structures fairly close to a stream or river, as long as there is a source of light. I have seen adults of *P. soror* in Nuevo León, Mexico, fly so close to a camp fire as to get burned! However, the vast majority of specimens in collections have been captured with ultraviolet lights (black light), or perhaps with mercury vapor lights. Less commonly, adult dobsonflies are collected from riparian vegetation with a beating net or other form of diurnal collecting. With some luck they can be found during the day in the shade, resting under a bridge or similar structure. Sticky traps sometimes capture dobsonflies, but the specimens might be easily damaged. A standard technique is to set up a black light in front of a white sheet next to a stream or river. It should be noted that *Corydalus* and other dobsonflies often land close to the sheet in adjacent vegetation and can be overlooked, so regular inspection of the surroundings with a flashlight is a good idea. Alcohol pan traps also are effective, especially to collect in several places at the same time. However, dry specimens are easier to handle and their color is better preserved. After capture, specimens may be killed in a standard cyanide jar and pinned soon thereafter, or they can be placed in a paper envelope and allowed to dry, with later rehydration in the laboratory for pinning and wing spreading. Generally, pinned specimens rehydrate to a flexible state overnight in a large humidifier, being suitable then for dissection and wing spreading. For long-term preservation, I consider dry specimens to be superior to alcohol material, especially because pinned specimens maintain their color, making them easier to identify. How-