J Insect Conserv
DOI 10.1007/s10841-016-9911-9

ORIGINAL PAPER

On the restoration of the last relict population of a dragonfly *Urothemis edwardsii* Selys (Libellulidae: Odonata) in the Mediterranean

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Received: 30 May 2016 / Accepted: 8 September 2016

Abstract The restoration of endangered relict populations is challenging in conservation biology because they require specific environmental conditions within an inhospitable regional climate. *Urothemis edwardsii* Selys is the most endangered dragonfly in the Mediterranean with only one known relict small population (Lac Bleu) left in Northeast Algeria. With the absence of successful (re-) colonization over the last two decades, the restoration of the species became a top priority. To improve the status of the species in Northeast Algeria, we carried out a reintroduction and translocation scheme during 2011–2015 and assessed the changes in distribution and population size. Our restoration plan led to the emergence of three populations of which one was restored (Lac Noir), one resulted from successful translocation (Lac Tonga Northeast), and one established after successful colonization (Lac Tonga Southwest). In three localities (Lac Noir, Lac Tonga Northeast, and Lac Tonga Southwest), signs of population growth were observed, whereas no significant trend in the source population (Lac Bleu) was detected. A new population (El Graeate) was also recorded in 2015, but its origin is uncertain. Capture-mark-recapture on adults conducted in 2015 in two sites (Lac Bleu and Lac Noir) showed low

Electronic supplementary material The online version of this article (doi:10.1007/s10841-016-9911-9) contains supplementary material, which is available to authorized users.

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Published online: 20 September 2016