

## FLYING WONDERS OF TIARA (CAPUNG-CAPUNG)

Dragonflies, with their smaller and more delicate cousins the Damselflies, are perhaps the most easily recognisable and beautiful insects flying within Tiara golf courses. There are over 230 different species to delight us in Malaysia .



Wherever there is fresh water, whether a pond, drain, lake or dam,

or even marshy or swampy forests, dragonflies will be there. So our golf course is an ideal habitat.



The agile flying adult dragonflies can be seen fluttering, skimming or hawking over the water; males chasing females and then mating by physically joining in tandem, to lay eggs on the water.



After a few days in the water, the eggs will hatch into dreary, squat creatures (called larva or Nymphs), which move around by drawing water through their gills and pumping it out violently, a sort of jet propulsion. The larva stage accounts for most of the lifetime of a dragonfly, which may be several weeks or even years depending on the species. A dragonfly larva will eat anything smaller than itself, including mosquito larva. In the



final stage, the larva emerges from the water in the early morning, climbing up a twig or stalk where it will molt, splitting its drying skin to reveal the beautiful winged adult dragonfly.



Dragonflies are totally harmless and a good friend to humans, as they catch and eat flying insects on the wing, including midges and mosquitoes. Adults come in a huge variety of colours, with some males and females looking similar, but most sporting totally different livery. They are between 25mm to 75mm in length and have enormous eyes with exceptionally keen vision.



Ancestors of today's dragonfly's flew in dinosaur times 300 million years ago and, from fossils found, then they had giant wingspans of up to 700mm.

Today, after hundreds of millions of happy years, they are sadly threatened by chemicals and fogging. Is this any way to treat a good friend? For all the dragonflies to be found in Tiara, see [www.cooltek.org/dragonflies](http://www.cooltek.org/dragonflies)



Words and pictures, all taken in Tiara, by  
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