

## The Project to Revive Red Dragonflies

Tatsuno City is famous for the *Akatombo* and *Akiakane* motif. *Akatombo* and *Akiakane* are red dragonflies, also known as the Autumn Darter, and they are decreasing in the Tatsuno area. Our purpose of our research was to investigate the reasons for their disappearance, while reviving the original landscape for the flying Autumn Darter and improving the biodiversity of their local rural ecosystems. First, we secured a habitat for living things with the cooperation of the members of the NPO Tatsuno Red Dragonfly Increasing Society. Then we made biotopes, or a small habitat, for the dragonflies. Sixteen biotopes were made, half of which were dug ground measuring 0.7 meters in length, 3 meters in width and 10 centimeters deep. The other half were left undug. In the summer, we conducted a creature survey around the biotope. We found that various creatures, including the predators of the Autumn Darter's larva, gathered there. In the autumn, an additional survey confirmed the spawning of various dragonflies, including Autumn Darters, which counted at over 50 spawned dragonflies. The results of the summer survey suggested the reason for the disappearance of Tatsuno's red dragonflies was the presence of their predators. Therefore, methods for reducing predator populations must be researched. Future surveys should monitor the presence of the Autumn Darter's predators, possibly with collected eggs from mixed breeding.