

lance-tipped darner *Aeshna constricta*

Kingdom: Animalia

Phylum: Arthropoda

Class: Insecta

Order: Odonata

Family: Aeshnidae

Illinois Status: common, native

Features

Adults of this species are about two and one-half to nearly three inches in total body length. There are notched stripes on the thorax. In males, the thoracic stripes are blue, green or yellow-green, and there is much blue coloration on the abdomen. The female's abdomen is similar in size and shape to that of the male. Females have two color forms: one is brightly colored with blue and very similar to the coloration of the male; and the other has the same pattern but is generally yellow-green with yellow wings. The cerci (pair of upper appendages at the tip of the abdomen in males; only appendages at the tip of the abdomen in females) are long and lance-shaped.

Behaviors

Males and females both fly along the shore of water bodies. Ponds that dry up each year are the mating habitat. Eggs are laid on stems and leaves of sturdy plants growing in or along the water and on moist soil. Adults rest on shrubs or other vegetation. They catch insects in flight and may eat their prey in flight. Nymphs eat insects and a variety of other small animals. Adults are active from July through October.

Illinois Range: statewide

Aquatic Habitats: marshes; peatlands; temporary water supplies; wet prairies and fens; lakes, ponds and reservoirs

Woodland Habitats: none

Prairie and Edge Habitats: none

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