

splendid clubtail

Stylurus plagiatus

FEATURES

The splendid clubtail is 2.5 inches long, black and yellow bodied; with large, well separated eyes. They have large green eyes on a mostly yellow face with black markings. The thorax is mostly yellow, with black patterning mostly on the top and they have black legs. Abdomen is mostly black, with small patches of yellow underneath. Females tend to have yellow tinted wings, a larger abdomen, and are more yellow-green than yellow. *Gomphus* belongs to the subgenus *Gomphurus*. Many genera (*Gomphus*, *Hylogomphus*, and *Stylurus*) within *Gomphurus* look very similar and are differentiated by differences in wing venation.

BEHAVIORS

The splendid clubtail is seen flying over large rivers from May to July in only the very southern region of the state near the Ohio River. They are predators of other dragonflies and butterflies.

TAXONOMY

Kingdom: Animalia
Phylum: Arthropoda
Class: Insecta
Order: Odonata
Family: Gomphidae

ILLINOIS STATUS

common, native

ILLINOIS RANGE



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female





Aquatic Habitats

lakes, ponds and reservoirs; marshes; rivers and streams; swamps; temporary water supplies; wet prairies and fens

Woodland Habitats

none

Prairie and Edge Habitats

edge