

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Emperor Dragonfly



Anax imperator is Britain's bulkiest Dragonfly. Male: Sky blue abdomen with a central dark line. Female: Green abdomen with a central dark line. They are 78mm long with a bright yellow leading wing vein {costa} and apple-green thorax. Males very territorial. They rarely settle, even eating its prey in flight, often flying with the rear of the abdomen bent slightly downwards.

Red Veined Darter

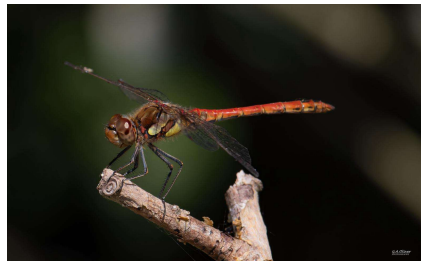


Sympetrum fonscolombii are 38-40mm long with pale wing spots (pterostigma) outlined in black. Eyes are brown above and blue below and they have yellow wing bases.

Male: deep red with red wing veins. The face and thorax are red. Single pale stripe on side of thorax.

Female and immature adults: ochre yellow abdomen. Yellow wing veins.

Ruddy Darter



Sympetrum sanguineum are one of the most common darter species and are 34-36mm long with black legs and a black "T" shaped marking on the back of the thorax. Larvae are 15-17mm long

Male: blood-red, club-shaped abdomen.

Female and immature adults: abdomen ochre-yellow with black markings; not club-shaped.

Migrant Hawker

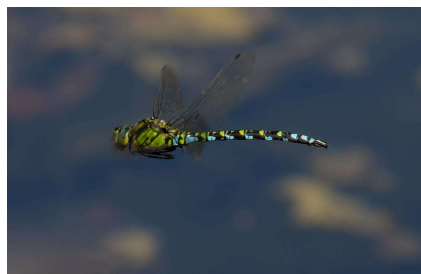


Aeshna mixta are 63mm long with a brown leading wing vein (costa). Short pale yellow stripes on the thorax and yellow "golf-tee" shaped marking on S2 near the top of the abdomen. Can be found away from water but prefers still or slow-flowing water for breeding. The flight period is from July to the end of October. Paired spots down the abdomen.

Male: dark with blue spots and yellow flecks along the abdomen. Blue eyes.

Female: brown with yellow spots along the abdomen. Brown eyes.

Southern Migrant



Aeshna affinis are 60mm long with paired dots down the abdomen and an elongated triangle marking on segment 2. Very small markings down the thorax.

Male: Blue eyes. Green/blue thorax. Dark abdomen with blue markings.

Female: Brown eyes. Yellow and brown thorax. Brown abdomen with yellow markings.

Brown Hawker



Aeshna grandis have a 73mm long brown body with yellow stripes on the side of the thorax and brown tinged wings.

Male: small blue and yellow markings, and a noticeable waisted appearance.

Female: small yellow markings.

Dragonflies and Damselflies

Common Blue Damselfly

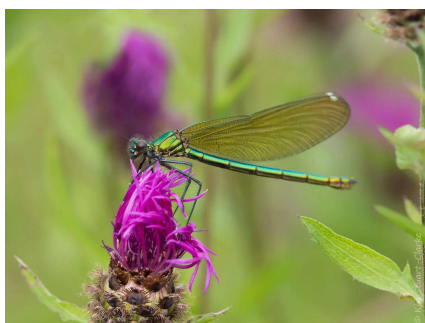


Enallagma cyathigerum are 32mm long with thick stripes on the back of the thorax. They are found from Portugal and Iran all the way up to Finland and the Arctic Circle. The males are a vivid Caerulean blue colour with black markings, while the females have a larger variation in their colouring

Male: blue and black with a mushroom/button shaped mark on segment 2 (below the wing base).

Female: black and green, sometimes blueish. A thistle shaped mark on segment 2 (below the wing base) and rocket shaped markings down the abdomen.

Emerald Damselfly



Lestes sponsa are 38mm long with a brilliant metallic green body. The elongated wing spots (pterostigma) are dark brown to black. They often rest with wings half spread.

Male: blue colouration at the top and bottom of the abdomen (segments 1-2 and 9-10).

Female: thicker body than the male and no blue colouration.

Small Red Damselfly

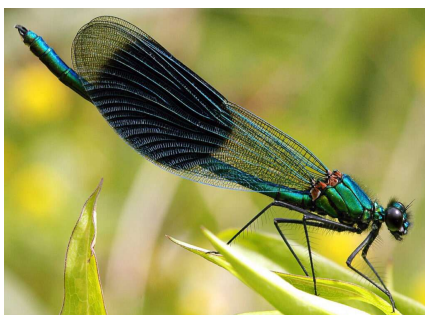


Ceriagrion tenellum are smaller at just 31mm and are all red with red legs and red wing spots (pterostigma). The thorax is bronze-black on top and pale yellow on the side.

Male: red abdomen.

Female: Typical form has a red and black abdomen. But *Erythrogastrum* is all red whilst *Melanogastrum* has a black abdomen..

Banded Damoiselle



Calopteryx splendens are 45mm long with a brilliant metallic green body. The elongated wing spots (pterostigma) are dark brown to black. They often rest with wings half spread. Beautiful Demoiselle are rarer and have all black wings instead

Male: metallic blue body with broad dark blue-black spot across outer part of wing.

Female: metallic green body with translucent pale green wings.