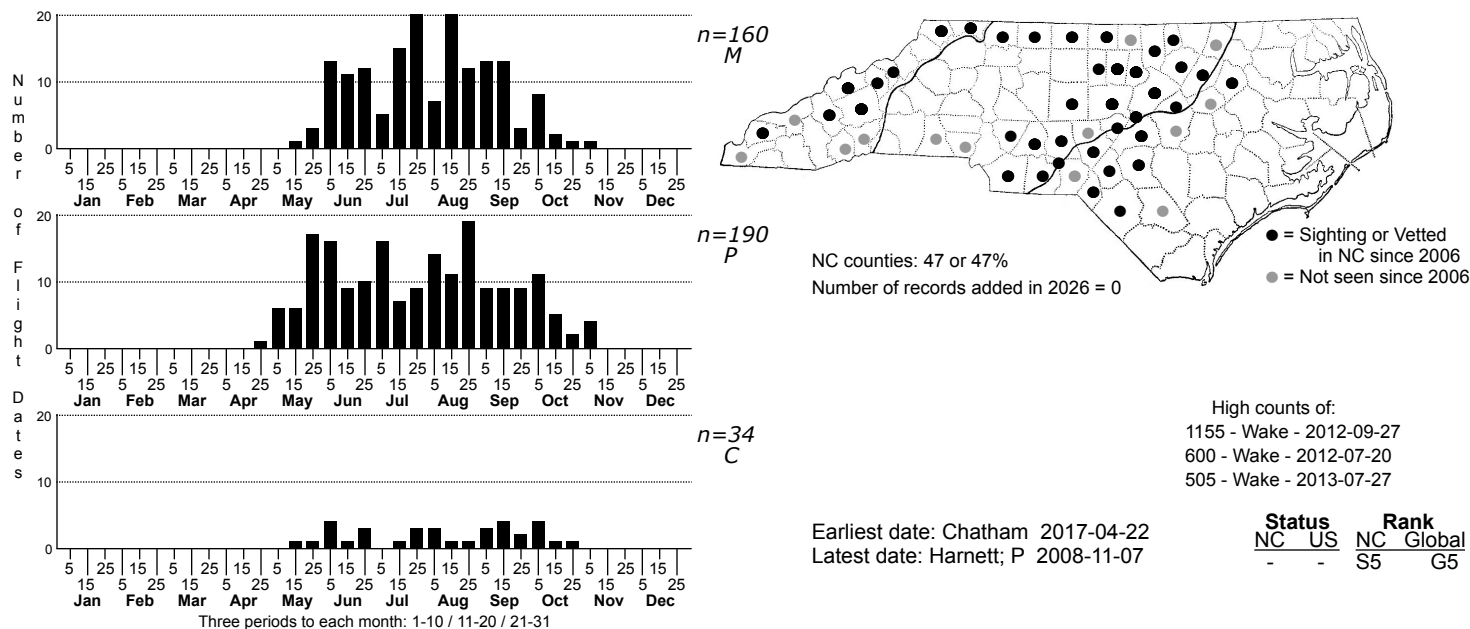


Hetaerina americana American Rubyspot



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the mountains, presumably throughout the Piedmont, and the western third of the Coastal Plain, including the Sandhills. Absent from the eastern 60-65% of the Coastal Plain; absence of records from much of the western Piedmont is perhaps partly due to poor survey coverage but certainly must represent a general scarcity there.

ABUNDANCE: Common to locally abundant in the mountains, and also in the eastern Piedmont, near the Fall Line. Seemingly quite rare in the western half of the Piedmont, for unknown reasons. Also, rare to very uncommon in the western Coastal Plain/Sandhills.

FLIGHT: Late April to early November in the Piedmont; apparently slightly shorter flight period in the mountains -- mid-May to early November. Coastal Plain flight period probably is similar to that of the Piedmont, though currently we have flight dates only from mid-May to mid-October.

HABITAT: Rocky streams and rivers, generally where clear and with moderate current.

BEHAVIOR: Typically seen perched on rocks or stems/twigs very close to the river or large stream, often in somewhat open/sunny conditions.

COMMENTS: There are a number of daily counts over 75 individuals, and a few over 500 individuals; yet the range is rather puzzling. Some of these high counts are close to the Fall Line, and others are in the mountains. Yet, how can there be no records at all, much less counts of over 10 individuals, from essentially any foothills county or other counties nearby in the Piedmont? It would seem that there are plenty of suitable rocky streams and rivers in this area. This species is one of the larger and more beautiful of the damselflies, with the deep red/crimson color of the thorax and wing bases of the adult males being quite spectacular in sunlight.