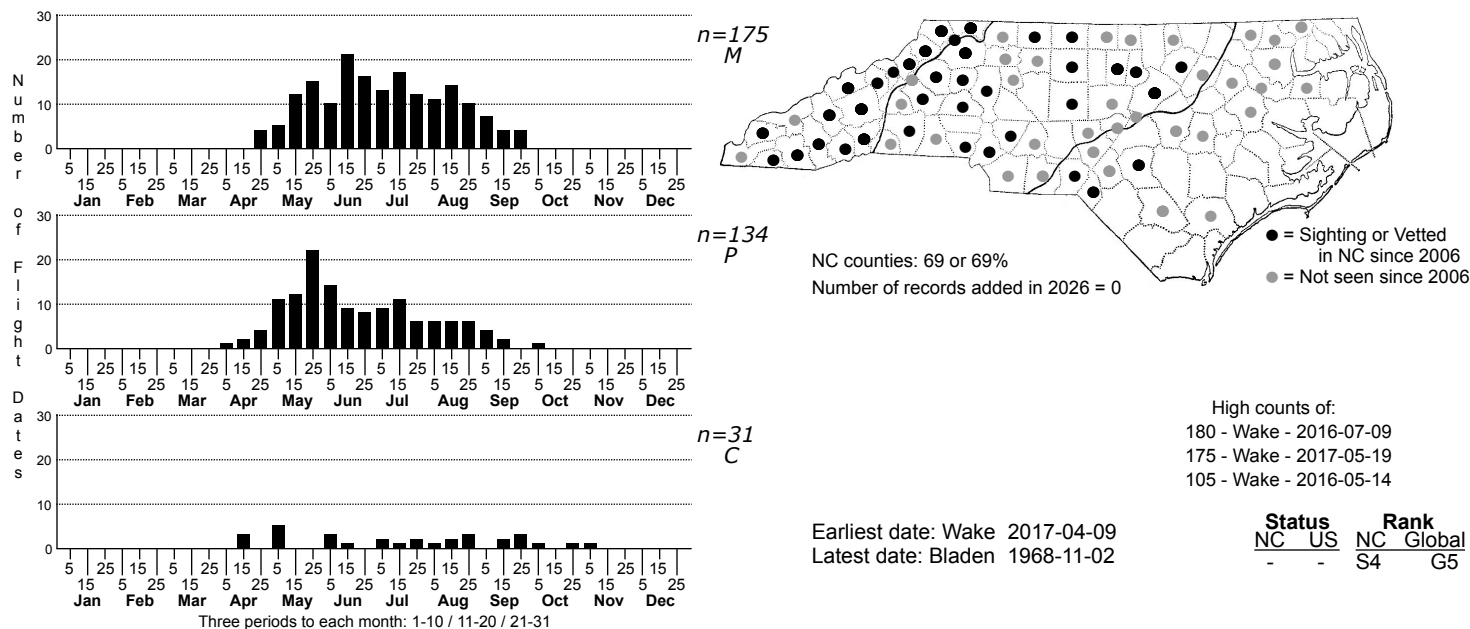


## *Enallagma aspersum* Azure Bluet



**DISTRIBUTION:** Throughout the mountains, and essentially throughout the Piedmont; in the Coastal Plain mainly in the western and central portions. Clearly absent from the eastern portions of the Coastal Plain.

**ABUNDANCE:** Common in the mountains, at least locally. Uncommon in the Piedmont, though may be locally fairly common to common. Rare in the Coastal Plain, and possibly absent close to the coast, especially in the far eastern counties; few recent records for this province.

**FLIGHT:** The mountain flight occurs from late April to late September. The Piedmont flight is slightly longer -- early April to early October, and the Coastal Plain flight even slightly longer -- mid-April to early November.

**HABITAT:** Ponds and small lakes, usually with emergent vegetation. Often, but not exclusively, in fishless waters.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males are not shy, and often perch on emergent vegetation out from a pond shore in full sun. As with many bluets, populations are quite local, seemingly absent from many or most suitable-looking ponds.

**COMMENTS:** The species is more easily found in the NC mountains than downstate. Yet, the three highest counts are from the eastern Piedmont -- from Wake County, and thus it is disturbing or at least odd there are no records for about 35% of the Piedmont counties. Is the species really that scarce in central NC, considering its local abundance in the mountains and Wake County? It is suspected that few observers are looking for damselflies, especially at pond margins, in much of the central and western Piedmont. Of note is that the species is very rare in the SC Piedmont, found just in a few foothill counties.