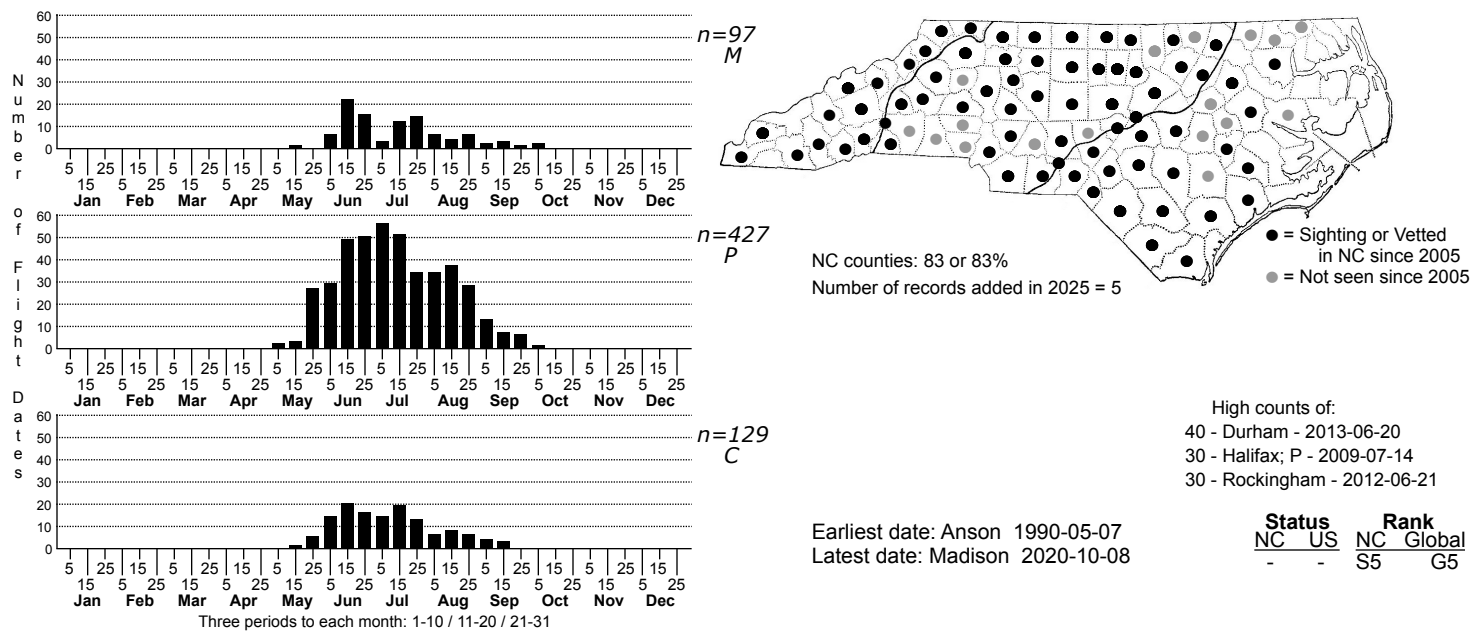


Dromogomphus spinosus Black-shouldered Spinyleg



DISTRIBUTION: Nearly statewide, though seemingly absent from the easternmost counties (no records east of Gates, Bertie, Beaufort, and Jones counties). Three mountain counties also lack records, though it is certainly present in all counties in that province.

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common to locally common over the Piedmont; fairly common in the southern Coastal Plain, and uncommon in the mountains. Much less numerous in the central and northern Coastal Plain, and seemingly absent in the far eastern counties. This is one of the more numerous of the clubtails in the state, particularly in the Piedmont.

FLIGHT: Fairly wide spread of flight dates for a clubtail -- early May to early October in the Piedmont. Probably the same flight period in the Coastal Plain, though dates only span from mid-May to mid-September. The mountain flight occurs from mid-May to early October.

HABITAT: Widespread choice of breeding habitats, from rivers and streams, to less often lakes and ponds. More tolerant of disturbed habitats than most clubtails, but tends to favor shaded or partly shaded bodies of water as opposed to open and sunny wetlands.

BEHAVIOR: One of the more conspicuous or easily seen clubtails in NC (along with Lancet and Ashy clubtails). Adults frequently perch flat on the ground on sunny trails, dirt roads, rocks by water, or vegetation, where they can be easily studied. One does not have to head for a pond, large creek, or river to see this species -- though your chances are better along a creek or small river than in uplands or far from such waters.

COMMENTS: This is a large and striking dragonfly. Immatures and adult females have conspicuous yellow sides to the thorax, whereas the adult males are more lime green on the sides of the thorax. The very thick black "shoulders" at the front of the thorax are clinching marks. Also, as the common name indicates, the spinylegs indeed have spiny projections on the very long pair of hind legs.