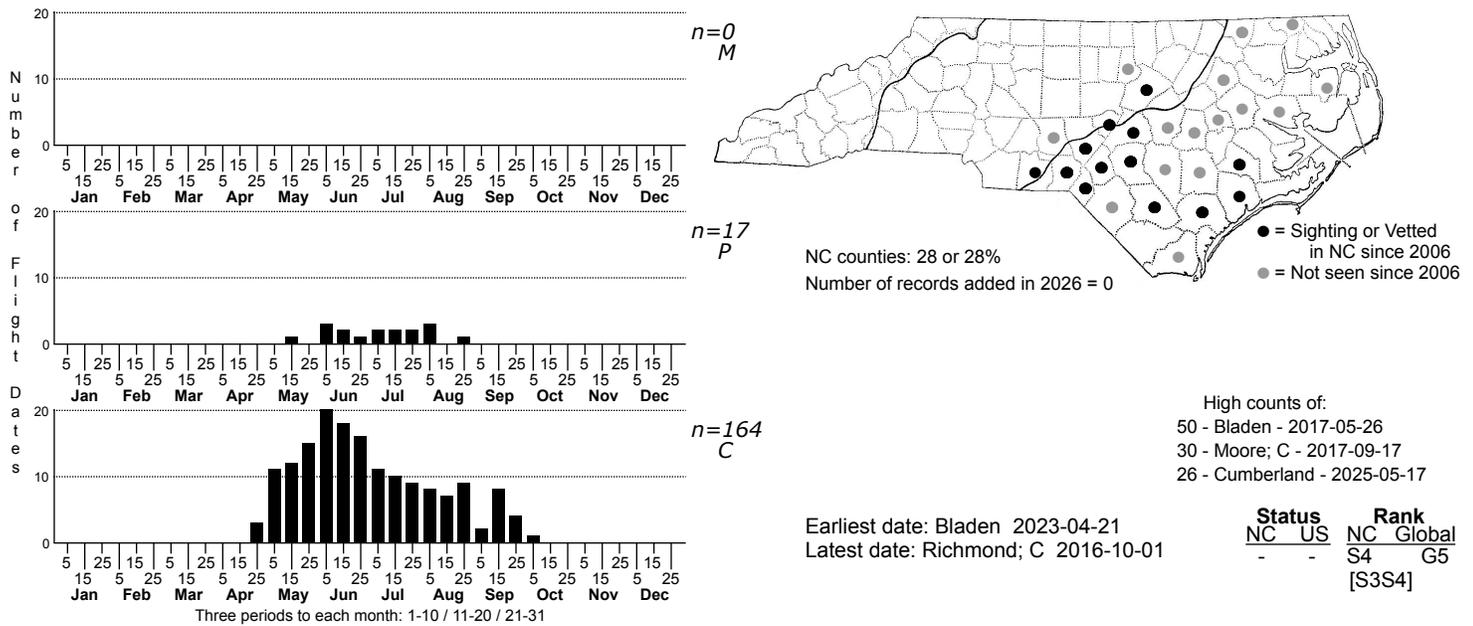


Enallagma dubium Burgundy Bluet



DISTRIBUTION: Scattered over nearly all of the Coastal Plain, and sparingly into the extreme eastern Piedmont. Absent from the western half of the state, and possibly absent in northern coastal areas.

ABUNDANCE: Generally uncommon to locally fairly common in the southern half of the Coastal Plain, and very rare and of spotty occurrence in the northern half. Rare in the narrow Piedmont portion of the range. Through 2016, the highest single-day count was only six individuals, but there have been several counts of double-digit individuals, including an excellent one-day tally of 50, in 2017.

FLIGHT: The Coastal Plain flight occurs from very late April or early May to very early October, whereas that in the adjacent Piedmont is from mid-May to late August.

HABITAT: Generally in highly vegetated ponds or small lakes, especially with floating vegetation such as lily pads. Can occur on very slow-moving creeks if there is some floating or emergent vegetation in full sun.

BEHAVIOR: Often perches on lily pads or on other exposed snags, well out from shore. Because of the dark colors on the thorax, an observer may need binoculars or a telephoto lens to clearly see the dark red/violet thorax stripes.

COMMENTS: The male has a deep red and black thorax, fairly similar to (but darker red than) that of the Cherry Bluet. Through 2016 we had very few recent records, but a stronger interest in studying odonates, especially damselflies, has taken place in at least the southern Coastal Plain starting in 2017. However, few people are searching for damselflies currently in the northern Coastal Plain, though it seems likely that the species has always been relatively rare in this part of the range.

Records have been greatly increasing in the last five years, though this might simply refer to more biologists visiting the Sandhills and other southern Coastal Plain areas with ponds. Usually where this species is present, many other damselflies can often be found, including the similar Cherry Bluet.