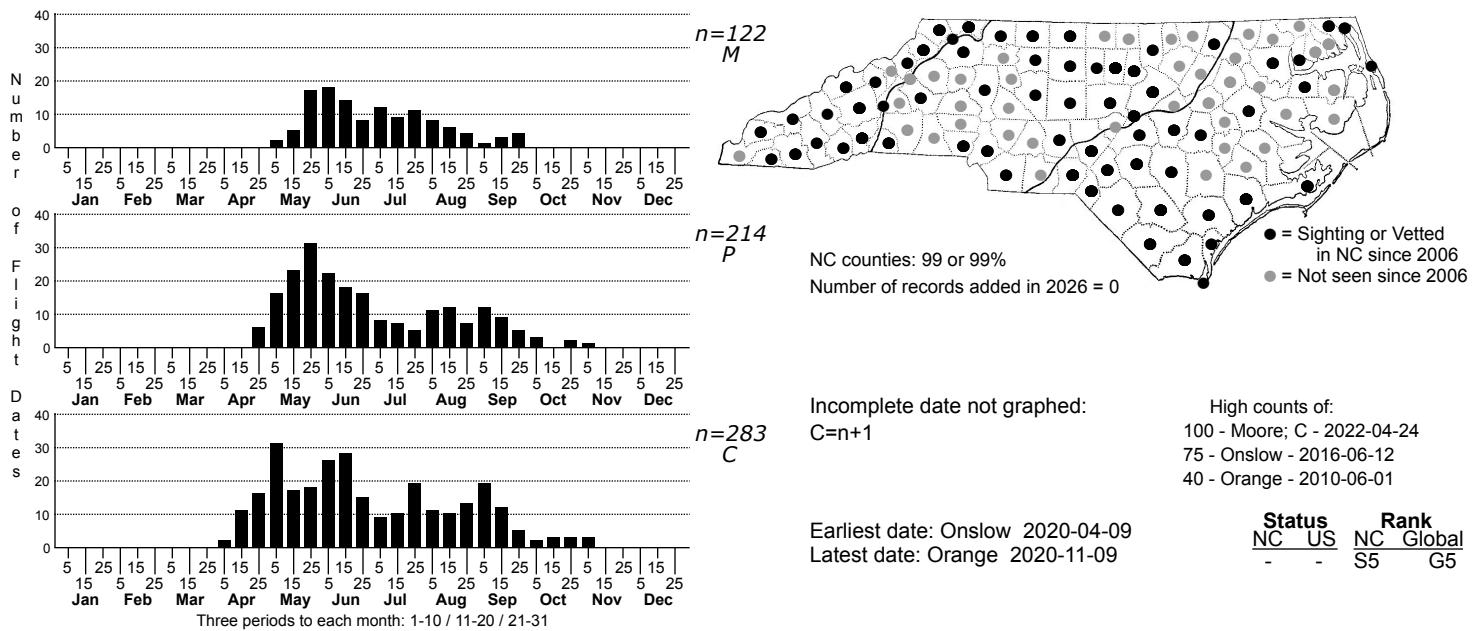


Celithemis elisa Calico Pennant



DISTRIBUTION: Statewide, undoubtedly occurring in all counties, but definitely scarce toward the coast (with still no record yet from fairly well-worked Dare County).

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common to occasionally common, and widespread, essentially throughout, but less numerous in the middle and higher elevations in the mountains, and in the far eastern counties.

FLIGHT: Most of the flight season for dragonflies (except for early spring); downstate, generally from mid-April to early October, sparingly into early November. The flight in the mountains begins in early May and extends to late September.

HABITAT: As with other Celithemis, it breeds at ponds and smaller lakes, typically with much vegetation along the shoreline. It occasionally breeds at slow creeks and rivers.

BEHAVIOR: Adults fly at ponds and perch on twigs and vegetation around pond margins. They also forage well away from water, preferring open habitats such as fields (rather than open woods and wooded margins). They are unwary when perching, as are most other pennants.

COMMENTS: This is one of the more colorful of the dragonflies, and adult males are quite stunning with their red and black abdomens and numerous burgundy/blood-red wing patches. Females and immatures, though highly patterned, could be confused with Halloween Pennants. Thankfully, because it occurs statewide and in open habitats, and it flies for many months of the year, it is one of the dragonflies that beginners should be able to observe and learn.