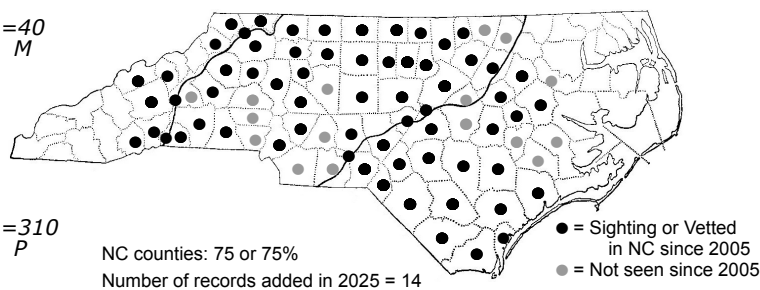
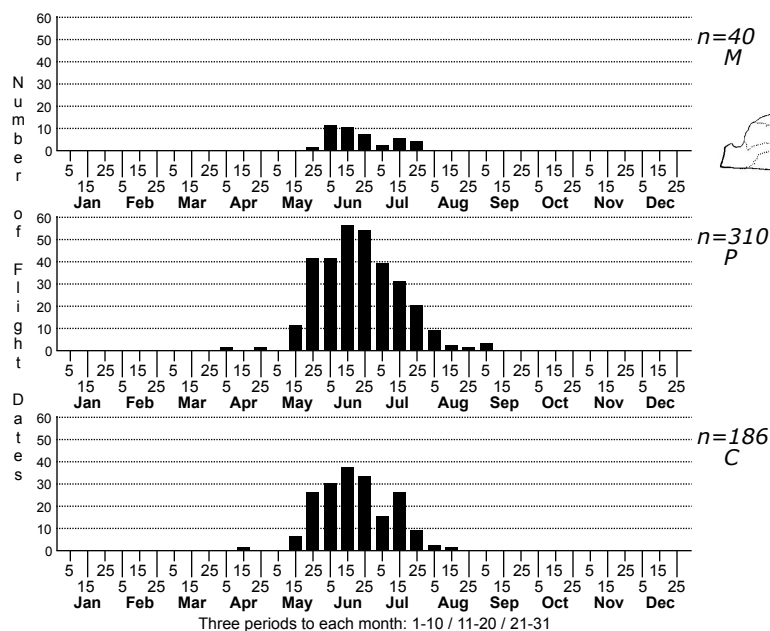


## *Progomphus obscurus* Common Sanddragon



High counts of:  
65 - Duplin - 2017-05-27  
60 - Franklin - 2025-05-23  
33 - Sampson - 2019-05-24

Earliest date: Chatham 2010-04-05  
Latest date: Orange 2013-09-09

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

**DISTRIBUTION:** Nearly statewide, but absent from the extreme northeastern and eastern counties, and oddly lacking records from the southwestern mountains (where ought to be present). No records east of Halifax, Martin, and Craven counties in the Coastal Plain; and known from just eight counties in the mountains.

**ABUNDANCE:** Fairly common to occasionally common in the Piedmont and much of the Coastal Plain, but seemingly absent in the northeastern and eastern portions of the latter province. Rare in much of the mountains, and presumably scarce to absent over 3000-foot elevation. This species and the Black-shouldered Spinyleg are the most frequently seen clubtails across the state during the late spring and early summer months (whereas Ashy and Lancet clubtails are the most common clubtails in the spring season). There are several one-day counts of over 25 individuals (all from the Coastal Plain), including a remarkable 65 in Duplin County in May 2017.

**FLIGHT:** Generally from mid-May to mid-August. However, there are scattered records as early as 16 March and as late as 9 September. The flight starts slightly later in the mountains than downstate.

**HABITAT:** Creeks or small rivers with sandy shores, sand bars, and other sandy areas nearby. These are often in rather open habitats, but may be in wooded areas.

**BEHAVIOR:** As the common name implies, this species is most often seen perching on damp sand or sandbars close to water. In hot weather, the males obelisk with the abdomen held angled up from the surface of the sand. They also perch on twigs near water and fly short distance over water.

**COMMENTS:** A dragonfly perching -- with the abdomen raised -- on sand next to a small stream will more than likely be a Common Sanddragon. Though seldom seen in large numbers in NC on a given day, it is quite widespread, with records from practically all Piedmont and Coastal Plain counties (except in the far east). The shape of the yellow markings on the dorsal side of the abdominal segments is quite unusual, like a hand bell, with the wide, open end of the bell at the anterior portion of each segment.