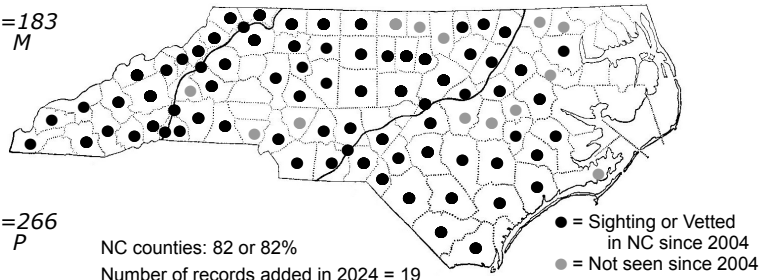
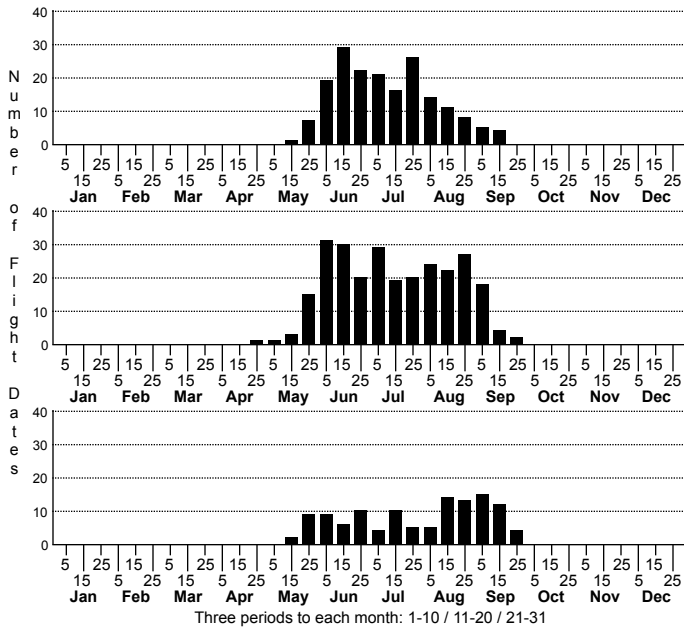


## *Hagenius brevistylus* Dragonhunter



NC counties: 82 or 82%  
Number of records added in 2024 = 19

Sight (not vetted) in 2024: Polk

Incomplete date not graphed:  
C=n+1

Earliest date: Wake 2014-04-27  
Latest date: Richmond; C 1995-09-28

High counts of:  
25 - Rockingham - 2012-06-21  
10 - Buncombe - 2015-09-15  
9 - Madison - 2012-05-17

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S5	G5

**DISTRIBUTION:** Nearly statewide, though apparently absent from the northeastern and far eastern parts of the state. No records east of Hertford, Martin, and Carteret counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Generally fairly common in the mountains and foothills, uncommon to fairly common over most of the Piedmont, but uncommon in the Coastal Plain. Despite its very wide range -- found in most NC counties, it is seldom really common and not nearly as often seen as the Lancet and Ashy clubtails (though the Dragonhunter flies later in the season than those two).

**FLIGHT:** Mainly from mid-May (rarely as early as late April) to late September; most often seen from early June to early September.

**HABITAT:** Generally breeds at swift-flowing streams and rivers, rarely at lakes. Prefers forested waters as opposed to very wide, sunny streams.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males often patrol conspicuously up and down the middle of a river or large stream, easily recognized by its very large size and unusual habit of curling the tip of the abdomen downward into a "J" shape. Though most often seen perching on a rock within the stream, or on vegetation very low to the water, they also perch on bare ground, at times allowing for easy observation. As with a few other large dragonflies, such as Comet Darner, a male Dragonhunter is extremely territorial, and you are not likely to see but a single male patrolling a stretch of river or creek.

**COMMENTS:** This is one of the largest of all dragonflies, and the male's habit of flying with the abdomen tip curled in a "J" shape makes it undoubtedly the easiest of the clubtails to identify on the wing. As the common name implies, it is quite predatory on other species of dragonflies, their main quarry. The species is monotypic -- the only species in its genus.