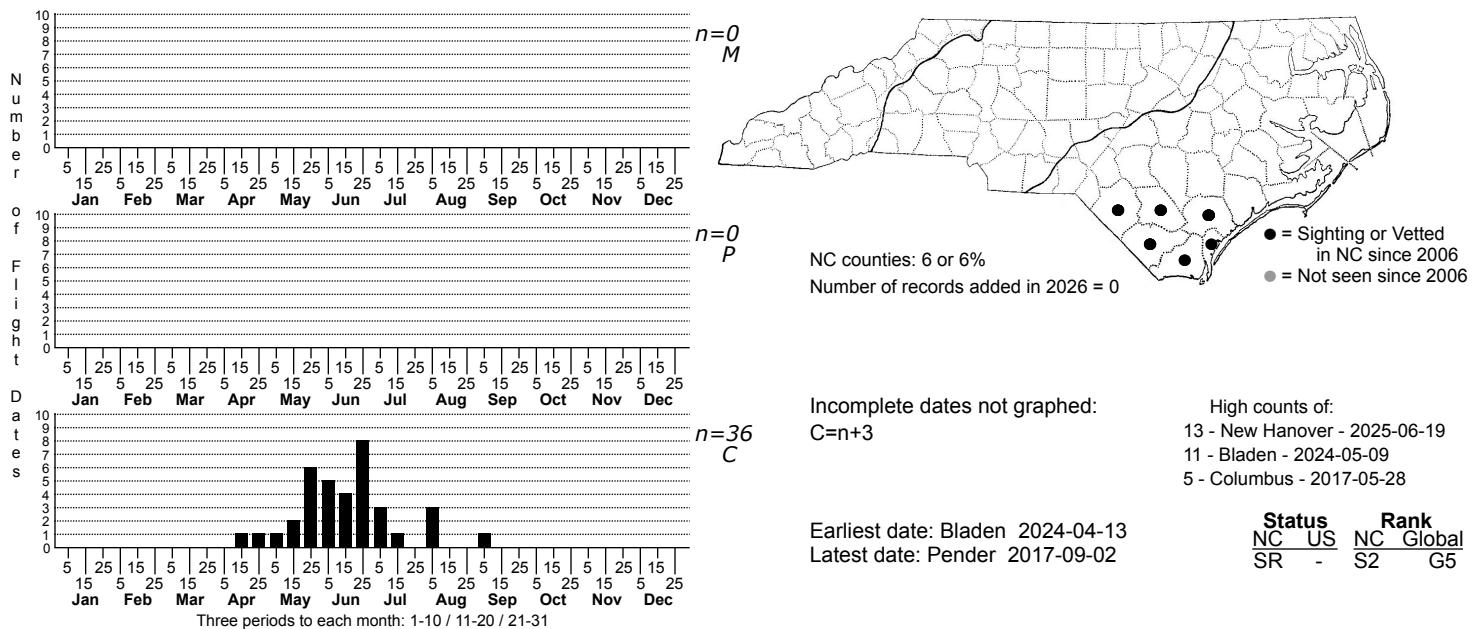


Arigomphus pallidus Gray-green Clubtail



DISTRIBUTION: Southern portion of the state; recorded from Robeson County on the west to Pender County on the east. Until 2021, NC was the northern edge of the range, but in 2021 there were several photographic records, from two counties, in southeastern VA. Thus, this species is to be looked for -- and must certainly occur -- along a few blackwater rivers or larger streams in the eastern and even northeastern counties (where there has been very little odonate field work in recent decades).

ABUNDANCE: Though common in much of Florida, it is rare (formerly) to now uncommon (at least locally) in its small range in NC. Thankfully, there have been a number of recent records in the past few years, and thus it is not as scarce as formerly believed.

FLIGHT: Late spring to midsummer; generally from the latter half of May to early August, plus a quite late record (photo) from 2 September.

HABITAT: In NC, it has been seen only along blackwater rivers and large blackwater creeks. Over the range as a whole, it favors swampy areas along slow-moving waters, such as habitat suitable for alligators (fide Chris Hill). Thus, it could occur in NC in swampy backwaters or other waters away from rivers.

BEHAVIOR: The species perches readily on the ground such as riverbanks or pond margins, and can be conspicuous where it occurs.

COMMENTS: For a clubtail, this is one of the easiest species to identify. The sides of the thorax are essentially unmarked and very dull, washed-out gray-green or pale green. Most other clubtails have conspicuous diagonal dark or light stripes on the thorax. Chris Hill observed 19 individuals on 13 July 2014 along the Little Pee Dee River in SC, perhaps only 10-20 miles down the Lumber River (same body of water) from the NC/SC state line. In 2016, Mark Shields re-located the species (two individuals) at or near Duncan Cuyler's original location along the Northeast Cape Fear River in Pender County; he also photographed one on the Brunswick County side of the Waccamaw River. James Reber also photographed one near the known Pender County site, in June 2016. As predicted from the results along the Waccamaw River, the species was discovered in May 2017 by Shields by kayaking the Lumber River, and thus adding Robeson and Columbus to the known counties of occurrence in the state. New Hanover County was added for the first time in 2018, as was a new location in Brunswick County, where the breeding site is likely along a creek (Town Creek) and not a rather large river. Shields documented a first record for Bladen County in 2019 with a photo from the Black River -- an expected site for its occurrence.

Owing to a number of recent records, from a handful of different blackwater rivers and creeks, the species has now (2020) been given a State Rank of S2, instead of the previous S1.