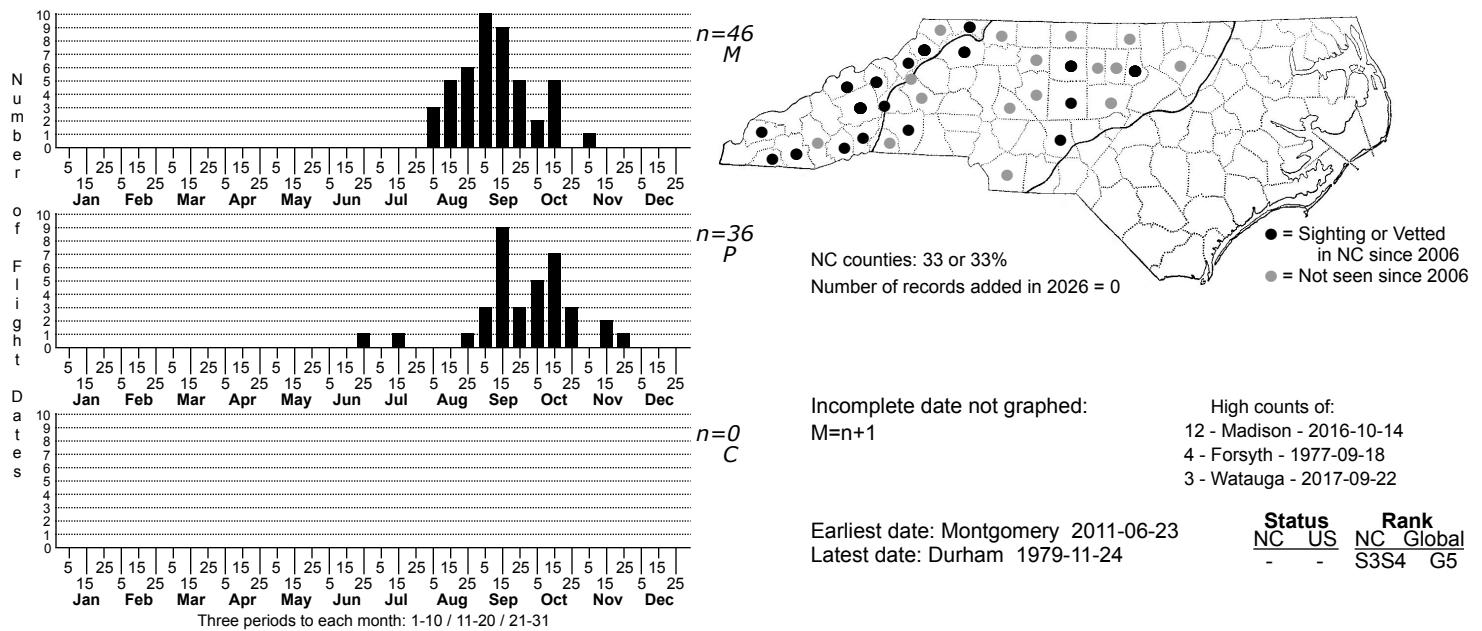


Archilestes grandis Great Spreadwing



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the mountains, and over most of the Piedmont; seemingly absent from the Coastal Plain. The range appears to stop at the Fall Line.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon in the mountains; generally rare in the western and central Piedmont (with few recent records), and very rare along the eastern edge of the range (Fall Line vicinity). It might be truly absent from the far northeastern Piedmont.

FLIGHT: A late-flying damselfly during the year. In the mountains, flies from early August to mid-October, and in the Piedmont from late June to late November, but most records are not until late August. Our highest counts are in September and October.

HABITAT: Along slow streams, but sometimes in rather degraded places.

BEHAVIOR: It can often be seen well away from streams, such as around ponds or in fields/forest edges.

COMMENTS: This is a very large damselfly, larger than other spreadwings. It should not be confused with any other odonate, as it is practically the only damselfly with a dragonfly-like thorax of a dark ground color and a single very contrasting yellow lateral stripe. The range seems a bit spotty in the mountains and Piedmont, though the species is assumed to occur essentially throughout these regions, and there are a number of recent records for the eastern Piedmont.