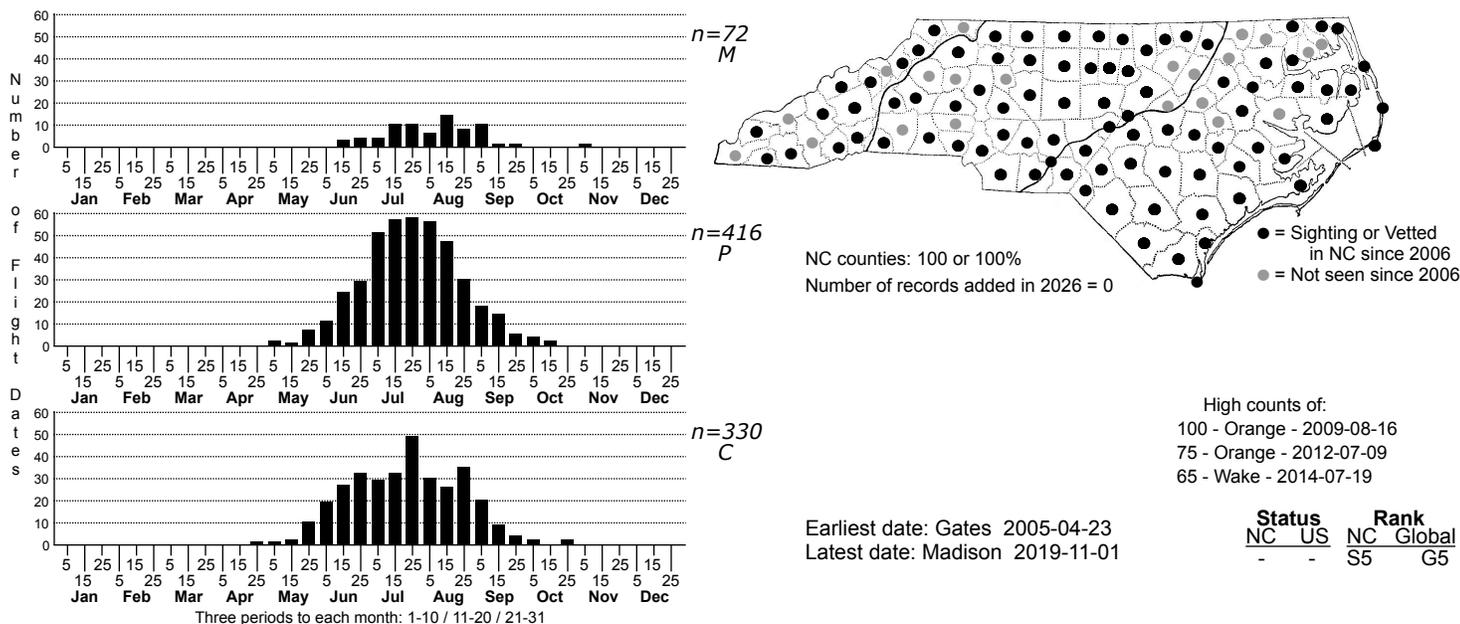


## *Celithemis eponina* Halloween Pennant



**DISTRIBUTION:** Statewide. This is one of the very few species with records for all 100 counties, though a number in the Mountains have no data for them.

**ABUNDANCE:** Common over the Piedmont and Coastal Plain, but only uncommon to fairly common in the Mountains, with five counties there still lacking recent records. Though it is not normally seen in swarms, we have several one-day counts of 50 or more individuals. The abundance across the state is relatively low until July or August, and it is often missed on late spring and early summer field trips.

**FLIGHT:** An extended flight season, covering most of the warmer months -- very late April or early May to mid-October downstate, and from mid-June (if not earlier) to late September in the Mountains.

**HABITAT:** Breeds at ponds and lakes, and sometimes at marshes.

**BEHAVIOR:** This *Celithemis pennant* forages farther away from water than all others, and is actually not often seen at breeding waters. They are characteristically seen perching on the tips of blades of grasses or tall herbs in a field or powerline clearing, usually well removed from forested areas.

**COMMENTS:** In many respects, this is the most atypical of the *Celithemis* pennants. It often resembles a butterfly or moth in flight because the wings are heavily suffused with amber or ochre coloration so as to appear almost opaque. The many dark bands on the wings also might fool an observer into thinking the odonate is a butterfly or moth. It seems to "enjoy" flying in windy weather, with choppy wing beats. As with the Calico Pennant, this species should be easily seen and learned by beginners.