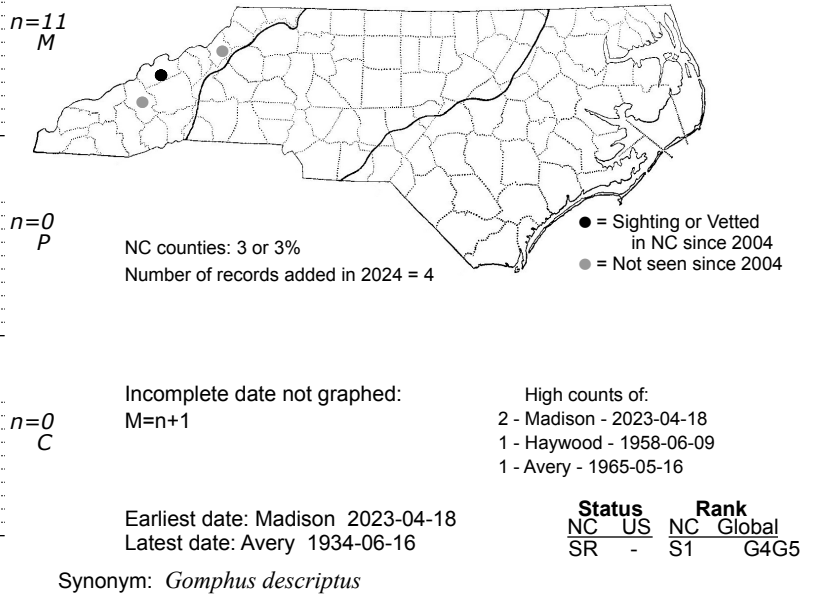
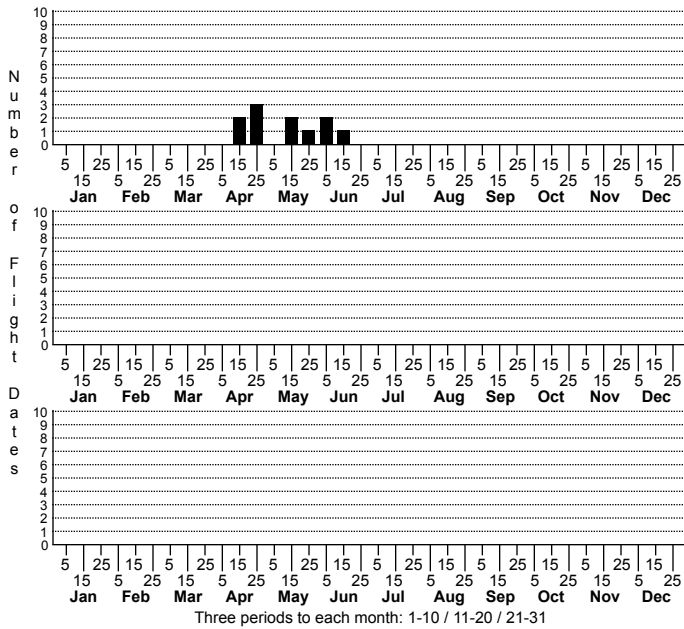


## *Phanogomphus descriptus* Harpoon Clubtail



**DISTRIBUTION:** Mountains only, where recorded only from three counties (Avery, Madison, and Haywood). NC is at the southern end of the range, as the species does not range into the GA mountains. The species ranges north into southeastern Canada. Unfortunately, all recent records have come from a rather short stretch of the French Broad River in Madison County.

**ABUNDANCE:** Very rare, as records only for three mountain counties and only nine records with dates at the present time. This is certainly one of the rarest of dragonflies in the state, though at least it can be intentionally searched for in the Hot Springs area, as there are records for several recent years.

**FLIGHT:** Late April into mid-June. The dates available for NC fall from 20 April to 16 June.

**HABITAT:** Breeds at rocky streams and rivers. All NC records are from the vicinity of small to moderate-sized rivers (i.e., French Broad, Linville, and East Fork Pigeon).

**BEHAVIOR:** Males perch on rocks in rivers and streams, on the ground near the water, or on vegetation close to the water.

**COMMENTS:** This is another poorly known dragonfly in NC. Until recently, the last known record for NC was from 1965, and it had been considered of historical occurrence. However, a male photographed by Vin Stanton in 2013 from the French Broad River in Madison County reconfirms this species in the state. One was well observed close to the same area in May 2016, and again in April 2020 and 2021 (with photos by Pete Dixon). Continued field work for clubtails in the mountains is greatly needed, especially by persons seeking out rare species by netting them along creeks and rivers, and could lead to additional records for this species.