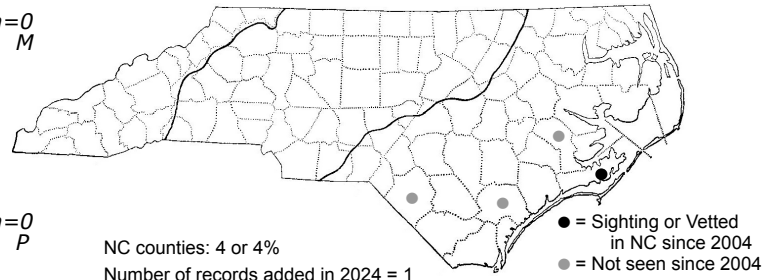
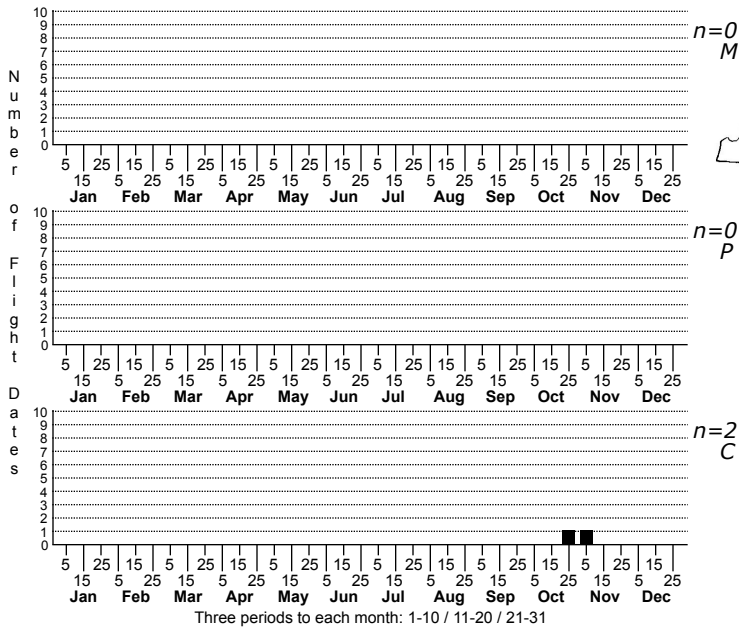


*Triacanthagyna trifida* Phantom Darner



High counts of:  
 1 - Pender - 1971-10-26  
 1 - Carteret - 2024-11-04

Earliest date: Pender 1971-10-26  
 Latest date: Carteret 2024-11-04

| Status |    | Rank |        |
|--------|----|------|--------|
| NC     | US | NC   | Global |
| SR     | -  | SH   | G5     |
|        |    | [S1] |        |

**DISTRIBUTION:** The southeastern corner of the state only; ranging north to Craven County and inland to Robeson County. A recent photo record (2024) confirms that it is still present in NC and is probably not simply a mid- or late fall southern stray.

**ABUNDANCE:** Apparently very rare or rare, known from just four counties. However, as it is crepuscular, special effort must be made to see it. Thus, its true abundance would be difficult to determine. After an absence of 50+ years without a conclusive record (last was in 1971), there is now documentation in 2024 for Carteret County.

**FLIGHT:** Perhaps the latest flying odonate in NC -- in terms of flight period, with the flight likely only in October and November; the only NC dates available are 26 October and 4 November. The flight in GA is early October to mid-December.

**HABITAT:** Small wooded pools, typically near rivers, in heavily forested areas. The 2024 individual, a male, was flying near the ground "over a small wet sphagnum moss-filled depression" according to the iNaturalist comments.

**BEHAVIOR:** The species flies only in fairly dark conditions, typically the last two hours of daylight, or on very dark, cloudy days. However, the 2024 individual was seen at 1:38 PM, on a partly cloudy day.

**COMMENTS:** The species has a very thin abdomen and should be readily distinguished by shape if seen well, a rare circumstance in NC. Its very late flight season, plus crepuscular habits, means that a biologist is unlikely to see the species during casual field work, without a special effort directed just for it. Because there were no recent records, and it has been recorded from just four counties, the N.C. Natural Heritage Program has deemed it worthy of tracking (as of fall 2010) as a Significantly Rare species. The NC Rank was moved from S2? to S1? in November 2012, to highlight the lack of recent records. In 2020, the Natural Heritage Program moved the rank to SH (Historical). However, now that Amy Padgett has photographed it in fall 2024 in Carteret County, the State Rank can be moved to S1 now.