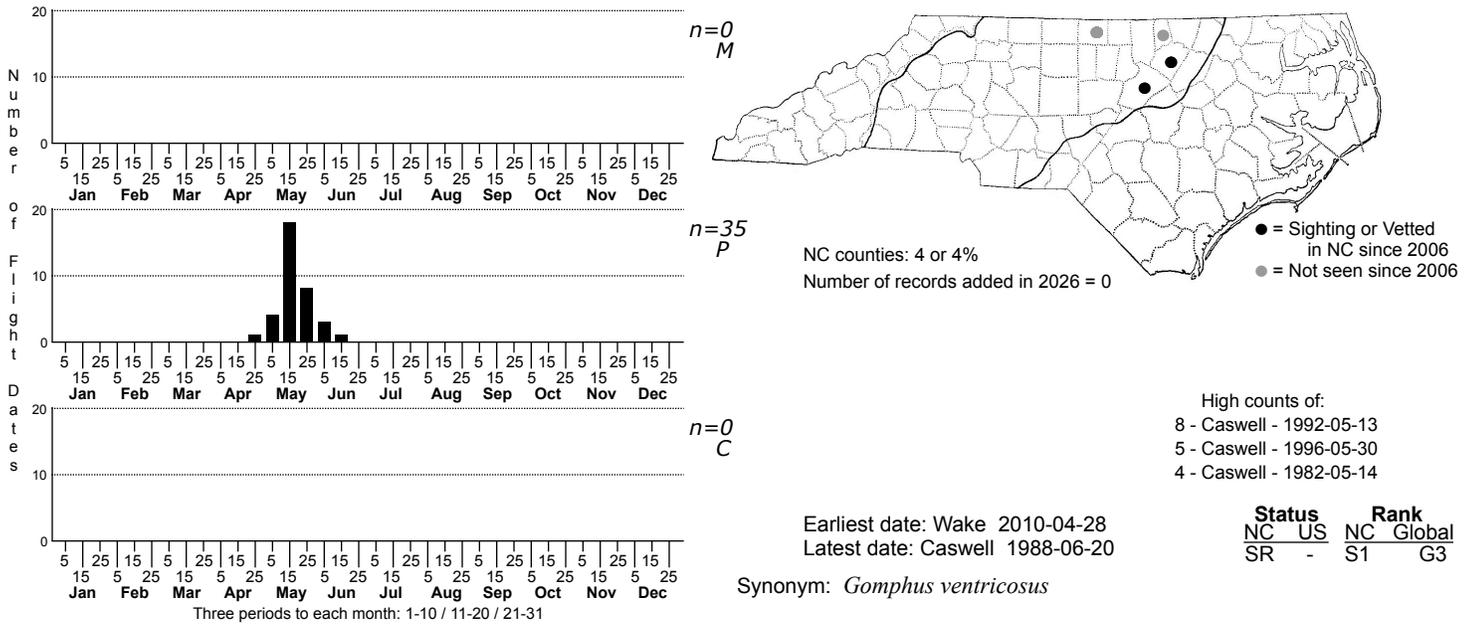


Gomphurus ventricosus Skillet Clubtail



DISTRIBUTION: A Northern species, ranging south only to the northeastern Piedmont of NC, where it ranges south just to Wake County. Known from only four NC counties.

ABUNDANCE: Very rare in NC. Even throughout its overall range, Dunkle (2000) calls it rare, and NatureServe gives it a global rank of G3 (rare). Though there are a minimum of 35 NC records with dates, many seem to be from the same general area and it should not be inferred that the species is not rare. In fact, there are only four records since 2000, and three are from the same two-week period in Wake County in 2010.

FLIGHT: Late April to mid-June; records fall between 28 April and 20 June. The majority of records are for the middle of May.

HABITAT: Larger rivers and streams that are fast-flowing, though occasionally at lakes with good water quality.

BEHAVIOR: Males are most easily seen in short flights out over the water, and they then return to shore to perch, often in grass, in the shade, or other inconspicuous places.

COMMENTS: The club is comparatively the widest of any clubtail, it being wider than the thorax width! It is also the smallest *Gomphurus* species of clubtail. Though rare and very poorly known in NC, it probably can be identified in flight within its small state range; the Cobra Clubtail is somewhat similar but that species has a mostly black abdomen (not as yellow on the dorsal portions of the thorax and abdomen as is the Skillet). It is one of the less common of the dragonflies, as NatureServe has its Global Rank at G3.

There are only a few recent records. The former State Rank of S1S2 has been moved to a straight S1 in late 2020, by the N.C. Natural Heritage Program. As there are a large number of dragonfly enthusiasts in the Raleigh, Durham, and Chapel Hill areas, it would behoove folks to search for this species along large creeks or rivers between these cities and the VA border, as there appear to be numerous suitable bodies of water where it could be discovered from Caswell to Franklin and Warren counties.