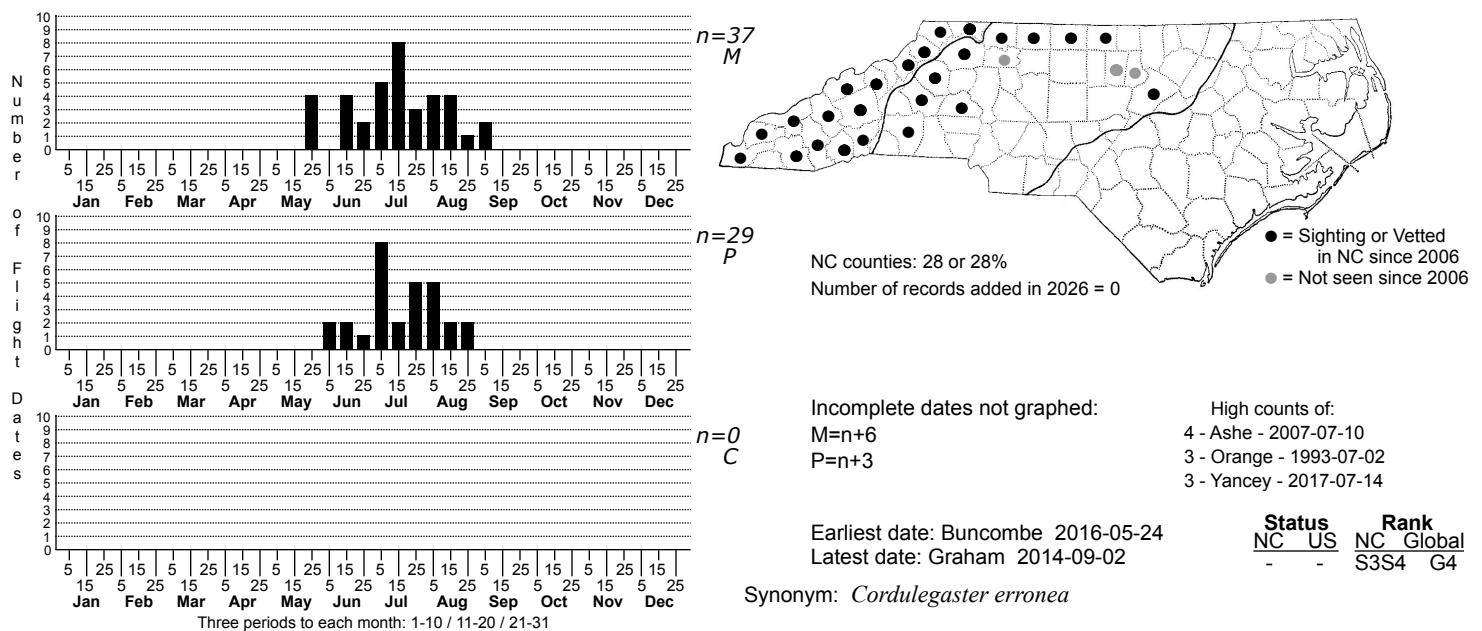


Zoraena erronea Tiger Spiketail



DISTRIBUTION: Present throughout the mountains and foothills, and the northern third of the Piedmont. Presence in the southeastern half of the Piedmont is uncertain, though there are no records between Rutherford/Catawba and Wake counties.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon in the mountains and the Piedmont foothills, but rare to uncommon eastward in the Piedmont to the north-central Piedmont. Very rare now in the northeastern Piedmont. Dunkle (2000) calls it "local" throughout its range, Paulson (2011) calls it "rather rare" over its range, and Beaton (2007) says "Uncommon to rare and local" in GA. The species seems to be slightly increasing in recent decades in NC, and there are numerous photo records in the past few years on the iNaturalist website.

FLIGHT: The flights in the mountains and Piedmont are roughly similar -- late May into early September. However, it is most frequent in July and in the first half of August.

HABITAT: Small streams or seeps, without fish; in partial shade. Streams may be rocky, but may have a sandy substrate.

BEHAVIOR: Males cruise in the vicinity of the seeps, though they can be difficult to find when perched. The males are more active late in the day, and may fly and perch well away from seeps, often on a twig or stem just one to several feet off the ground, for easy viewing and photographing.

COMMENTS: For whatever reason, Duncan Cuyler had relatively few numbers of collected specimens and county records, as compared with the gratifyingly large number of recent records, especially those documented with photos. Photos have now been taken in at least 16 counties, both in the mountains/foothills and in the far northern Piedmont. These data seem to indicate that the Tiger Spiketail is increasing in numbers in recent decades, though it might simply be that the species is not a difficult one to photograph, especially by the layperson walking along montane trails and roads. Because of this increase in recent records, the N.C. Natural Heritage Program removed it from the Watch List in fall 2014.

The spiketails in North America had a change in genus name from *Cordulegaster* to *Zoraena* in fall 2024 (Paulson et al. 2024).