

## *Arigomphus villosipes* Unicorn Clubtail

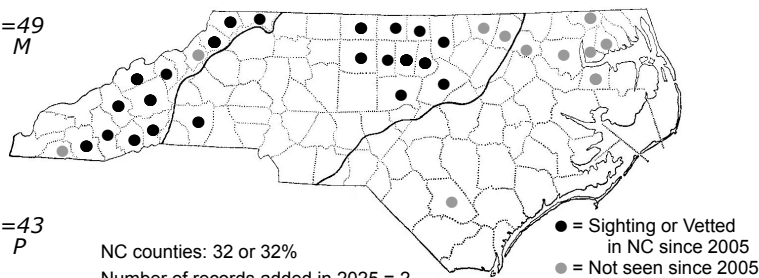
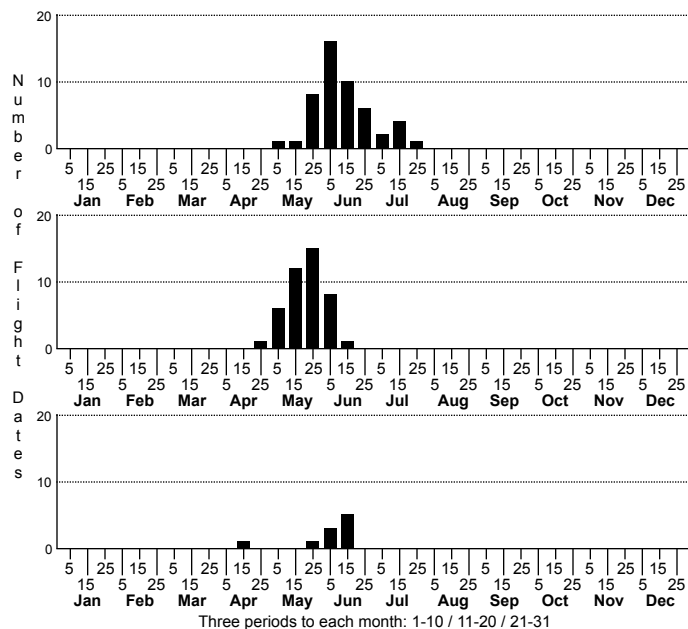


Photo (vetted) in 2025: Yancey

High counts of:  
12 - Orange - 2018-05-26  
8 - Washington - 1989-06-19  
6 - Orange - 2019-05-09

Earliest date: Perquimans 1991-04-18  
Latest date: Macon 2008-07-21

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
-	-	S3	G5

**DISTRIBUTION:** The mountain region, the northern Piedmont, and the adjacent northern Coastal Plain. A record from Bladen County seems odd, and it is not in Cuyler's specimen collection. Additional records in the past few years have extended the range slightly southward, to Guilford, Alamance, Orange, Durham, and Wake counties. NC lies at the southeastern edge of the species' range.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon (and possibly local) in the mountains, but probably very rare to rare in the southwestern counties. Seemingly very rare eastward in the Piedmont near the VA border, to Rockingham County; rare to locally uncommon (but increasing) in the northeastern Piedmont, but currently no Piedmont records for the southern 70% of the province. In the Coastal Plain, apparently very rare south to Washington County; however, there are no records since 1998, and thus its current status in that province is not known.

**FLIGHT:** The mountain flight occurs from early or mid-May to late July. The Piedmont flight is earlier -- late April or early May to mid-June (and possibly into July). Not surprisingly, the Coastal Plain flight is even earlier -- mid-April to mid-June.

**HABITAT:** Generally a lake and pond species, or slow streams; muddy bottom waters preferred.

**BEHAVIOR:** Occurs around ponds and lakes, perching on the ground or on vegetation around the water's edge. It seems to favor small ponds in sunny locations, often in somewhat disturbed situations.

**COMMENTS:** Until 15-20 years ago, this species had an unusual range in the state, being found mainly in the mountains and the northern Coastal Plain, at least based on Duncan Cuyler's records. However, in the past decade there have been a modest number of records, many made by John Petranka, from the northeastern Piedmont, such that the former large gap between the mountains and Coastal Plain has now been mostly filled in. Unless data are uncovered soon for the Bladen County "record", we will likely remove it from the database; this county lies far to the south of any other known records. There still remains an odd lack of records from the northwestern Piedmont that "connects" the north-central Piedmont with the northern mountains. There has been a fair amount of recent field work in these Piedmont counties, but perhaps more survey of small lakes and ponds (as opposed to rivers and creeks) is needed.

There are enough recent records that the species was removed from the state's Watch List, in late 2020.