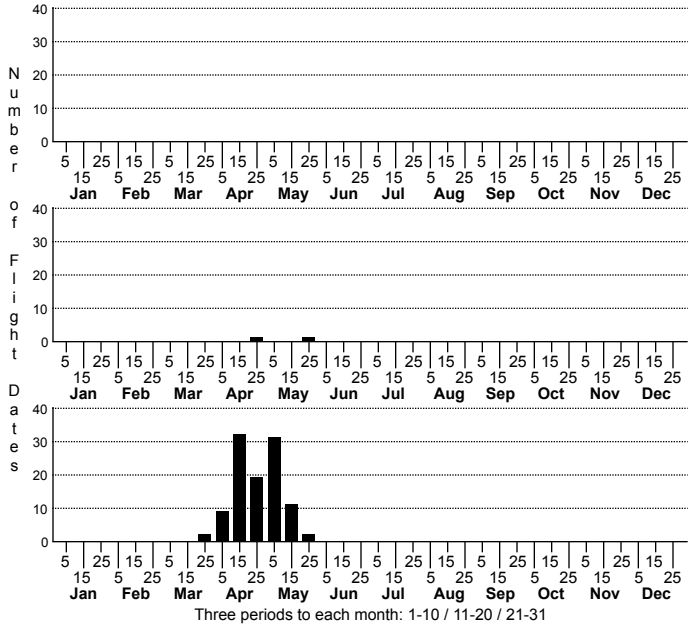
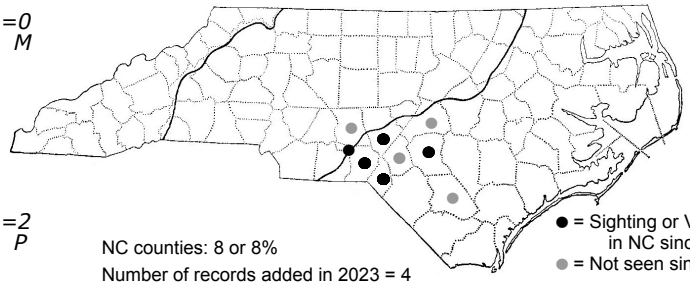
Phanogomphus diminutus Diminutive Clubtail





NC counties: 8 or 8%
Number of records added in 2023 = 4

Incomplete date not graphed:
C=n+1

High counts of:
33 - Moore; C - 1965-05-01
20 - Scotland - 2015-05-03
20 - Scotland - 2020-04-17

Earliest date: Scotland 2020-03-27
Latest date: Richmond; C 2022-05-31

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
W	-	S3S4	G3G4

Synonym: *Gomphus diminutus*

DISTRIBUTION: Essentially only the Sandhills region, plus the adjacent southern Coastal Plain, east to Harnett, Cumberland, and Bladen counties. NC lies at the northeastern edge of the species' range. The species has one of the more limited ranges for a dragonfly -- primarily along the Fall Line sandhills from NC, through central SC, to extreme eastern GA.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon to locally fairly common in the Sandhills, but very rare to the east. Can occur in some numbers, as there are three daily counts of 20 or more individuals.

FLIGHT: Spring season only; very late March to late May.

HABITAT: Sunny margins of lakes, ponds, pools, and other slow-moving water, often around sphagnum moss or other "boggy" ground.

BEHAVIOR: Adults perch on the ground in the boggy places or dirt/ground nearby. They probably do not stray too far from such wet areas.

COMMENTS: In the Sandhills, this species is not too difficult to find, if one walks along the boggy, open margins of beaver ponds or man-made ponds, especially looking near sphagnum moss. Wet spots in powerline clearings can also have the species. It is one of the smaller clubtails, appearing similar at a glance to the much more common Lancet Clubtail, but the Diminutive (as the common name implies) is even slimmer and slightly shorter than the Lancet. A previous photo from Brunswick County that was identified as this species has been confirmed by the website editors (in late 2016) as a different species and thus this county has been removed from the range map. Owing to its small global range, the species has been on the N.C. Natural Heritage Program's Watch List for many years.