

Hylogomphus adelphus Mustached Clubtail

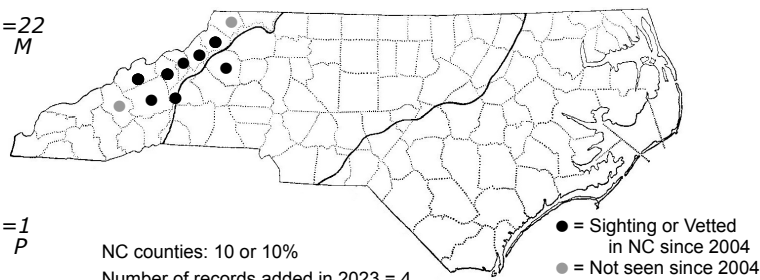
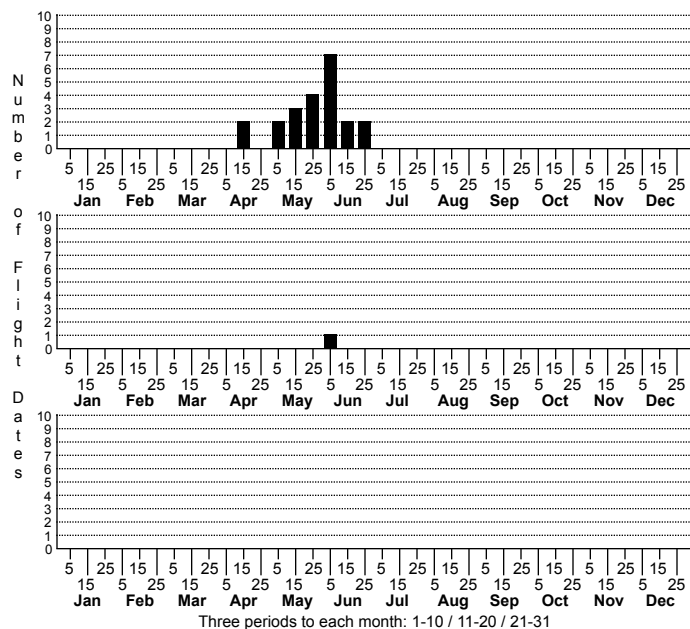


Photo (vetted) in 2024: Buncombe

High counts of:
3 - McDowell; M - 2017-06-07
3 - Madison - 2020-04-17
3 - Watauga - 2022-06-06

Earliest date: Madison 2020-04-11
Latest date: Haywood 1990-06-28

Status	Rank		
NC	US	NC	Global
SR	-	S1S2	G5

Synonym: *Gomphus adelphus*

DISTRIBUTION: Mountains and adjacent foothills only; known from just nine counties, in the northern and central portions of the province. As expected from the state range map, this is a Northern species, ranging from Canada to northern GA (one record).

ABUNDANCE: Seemingly rare in the northern half of the mountains (and adjacent foothills), with seldom more than one or two individuals seen in a day. Obviously very rare, at best, in the southern half of the mountains. As there is a record for northern GA, it should occur sparingly in GA and SC border counties in NC.

FLIGHT: A spring to early summer flight, with the flight period seemingly moving earlier in recent years (as has been the case for many odonates). Formerly seldom found prior to mid-May, but the flight now is from mid-April to late June, though May and early June are the usual dates for finding it. Some records previously reported earlier in May have been determined by website reviewers to be of Green-faced or Cobra clubtails.

HABITAT: Rivers to small streams, where there are riffles or rapids. Occasionally at lakes.

BEHAVIOR: The species is most active in late afternoon. Adults may perch on rocks, shorelines, and leaves near rivers and creeks.

COMMENTS: This is one of many montane species of dragonflies that is poorly known to most state biologists; the species is likely found mainly with a purposeful search, late in the day. A photographic record made by Curtis Smalling in 2015 added Watauga County to the list of known counties. More importantly, photos from foothill sites in Caldwell (by Mark Shields) and McDowell (by Smalling) counties added two additional counties to the state range, especially indicating that it ranges downward into the transition zone with the Piedmont province. In 2018, John Petranka added photographic documentation for Avery County, though there is a vague previous sighting for that county. Shields, along with Hunter Phillips, documented a first record for Mitchell County, to fill in a small gap in the range.

Records are increasing in recent years owing to more surveys of the northern and central mountains, and the species might better now be given a State Rank of S2 (instead of the current S1S2). As there are only 22 records with dates, perhaps moving the rank to S2 can wait for a few years, to see if more locations are discovered. It remains a Significantly Rare species, tracked by the N. C. Natural Heritage Program.