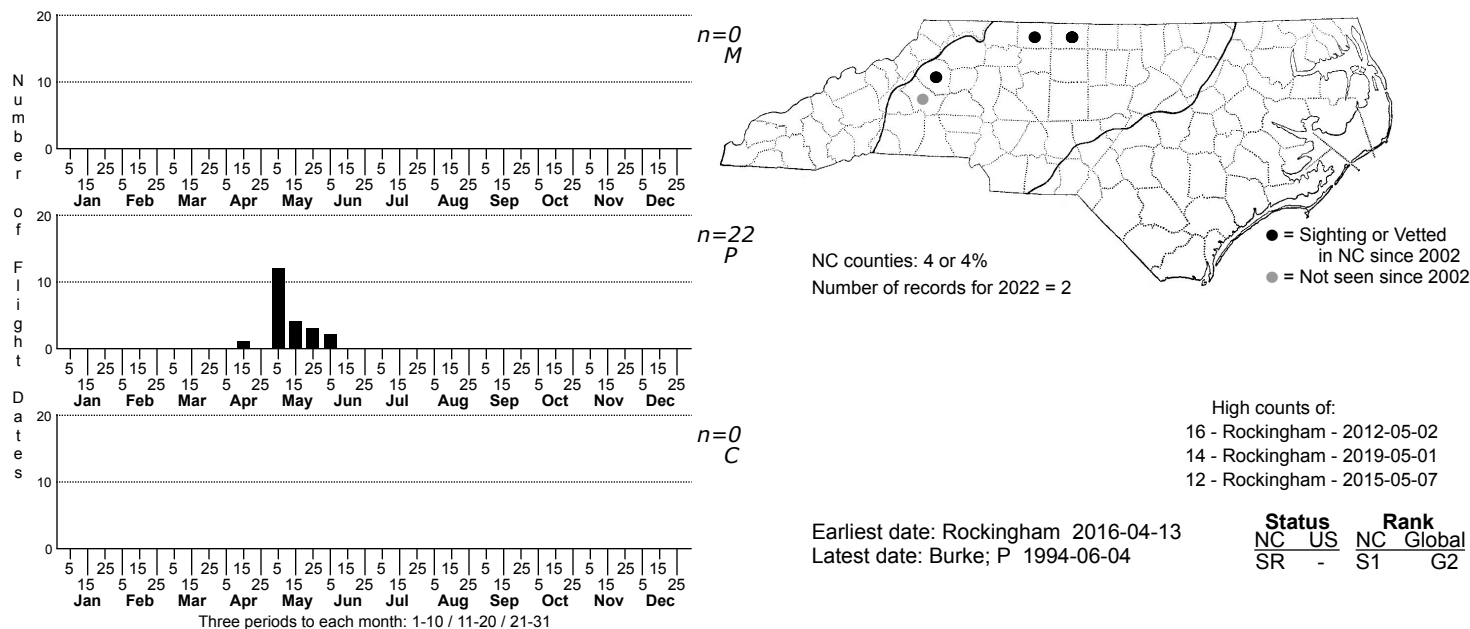


## *Ophiogomphus edundo* Edmund's Snaketail



**DISTRIBUTION:** According to the OdonataCentral map, this species has now been found in barely a dozen counties in its range, in western VA (in 2021), in western NC, southeastern TN, extreme western SC, and northern GA. The NC range is the escarpment/foothills, in Caldwell and Burke counties, plus a few sites in Stokes and Rockingham counties in the northwestern Piedmont. This clubtail species ought to be present in other NC foothill counties, especially south of Burke County, as well as in the gap between Stokes and Caldwell counties.

**ABUNDANCE:** Very rare throughout its range, as well as in NC. However, at the very few locations where found, there have been moderate numbers seen in a given day -- especially along the Mayo River in Rockingham County, as opposed to just a single individual.

**FLIGHT:** The flight in NC, based on 22 records, is from mid-April to early June, if not slightly longer. The Georgia records fall between 24 April and 25 May (Giff Beaton's website).

**HABITAT:** Rivers and larger creeks with fast-flowing, clear water. The three bodies of water (Mayo and Dan rivers and Wilson Creek) where recently seen in NC are fast-flowing large creeks/small rivers.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males are seldom seen except when perching on rocks in the rivers and streams. Dunkle (2000) says that the adults, at least males, spend most of their time high in trees.

**COMMENTS:** This species was considered to be of historical global occurrence (GH) until re-discovered in 1994 in the NC foothills. It has been searched for in the state in the Burke/Caldwell vicinity a few times since the discovery, but observers had met with failure until John Petranka found some numbers at two sites along Wilson Creek in Caldwell County, in May 2016. Of greater significance was Ed Corey's remarkable discovery of the species in Rockingham County in 2012, observing 16 individuals, photographing and collecting one to document this major range extension into the middle Piedmont. Other biologists have re-found this species there in recent years. In spring 2017, Brian Bockhahn and Kyle Kittelberger discovered a new location at the Dan River in Stokes County. With a global rank of G2, this may be globally the rarest dragonfly that occurs in NC. In fact, it ought to have been Federally listed as Endangered or Threatened already.