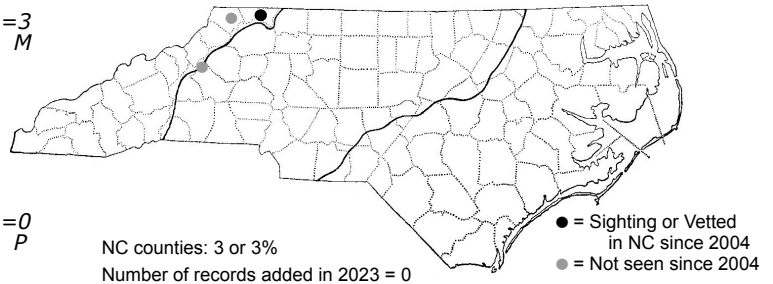
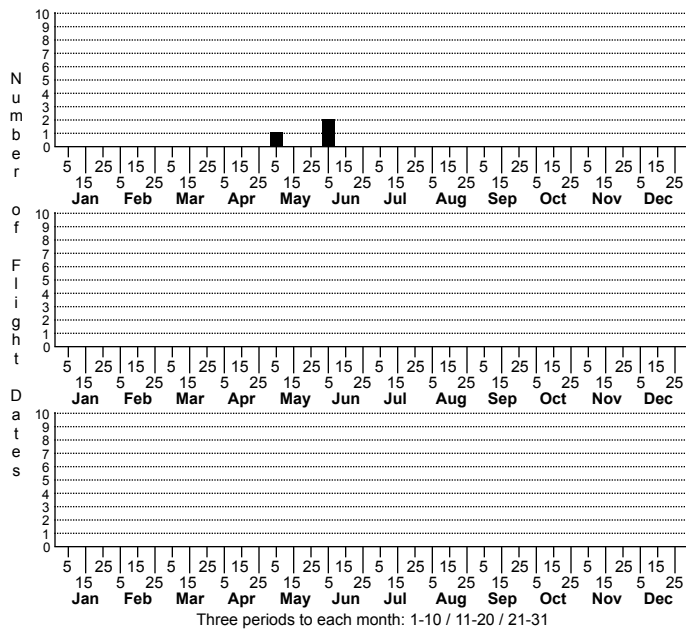


# *Ophiogomphus howei* Pygmy Snaketail



High counts of:  
2 - Alleghany - 2008-05-10  
1 - Alleghany - 2007-06-06  
1 - Ashe - 1994-06-05

Earliest date: Alleghany 2008-05-10  
Latest date: Alleghany 2007-06-06

| Status | Rank      |
|--------|-----------|
| NC US  | NC Global |
| SR -   | S1 G3     |

**DISTRIBUTION:** This is a Northern/Appalachian species that ranges south to the mountains of NC. Within the state, it is known from only three mountain counties -- Alleghany, Ashe, and Burke.

**ABUNDANCE:** Undoubtedly very rare, with hardly any recent records (just two since 1994, from the same area). Dunkle (2000) also considers the species to be "scarce" throughout its range.

**FLIGHT:** The only NC dates available to us are 10 May, 5 June, and 6 June, from Alleghany and Ashe counties. The date(s) for the Burke County record is not known. Thus, the flight is presumed to occur from early May to early to mid-June.

**HABITAT:** Breeds at large, clear rivers, with sand or gravel bottoms.

**BEHAVIOR:** Males fly in a bouncy manner low over ripples in the rivers, where they are difficult to observe.

**COMMENTS:** This is the smallest snaketail and one of the smallest of the clubtails, typically well under 1.5 inches in length. As with so many other clubtails, especially those restricted in NC to the mountains, it is poorly known to most biologists. The New River in Ashe and Alleghany counties is the best spot to look for this and many other rare or poorly known dragonflies in our mountains. Not only is it very rare in NC (with a State Rank of S1), it is also globally rare (with a Global Rank of just G3).