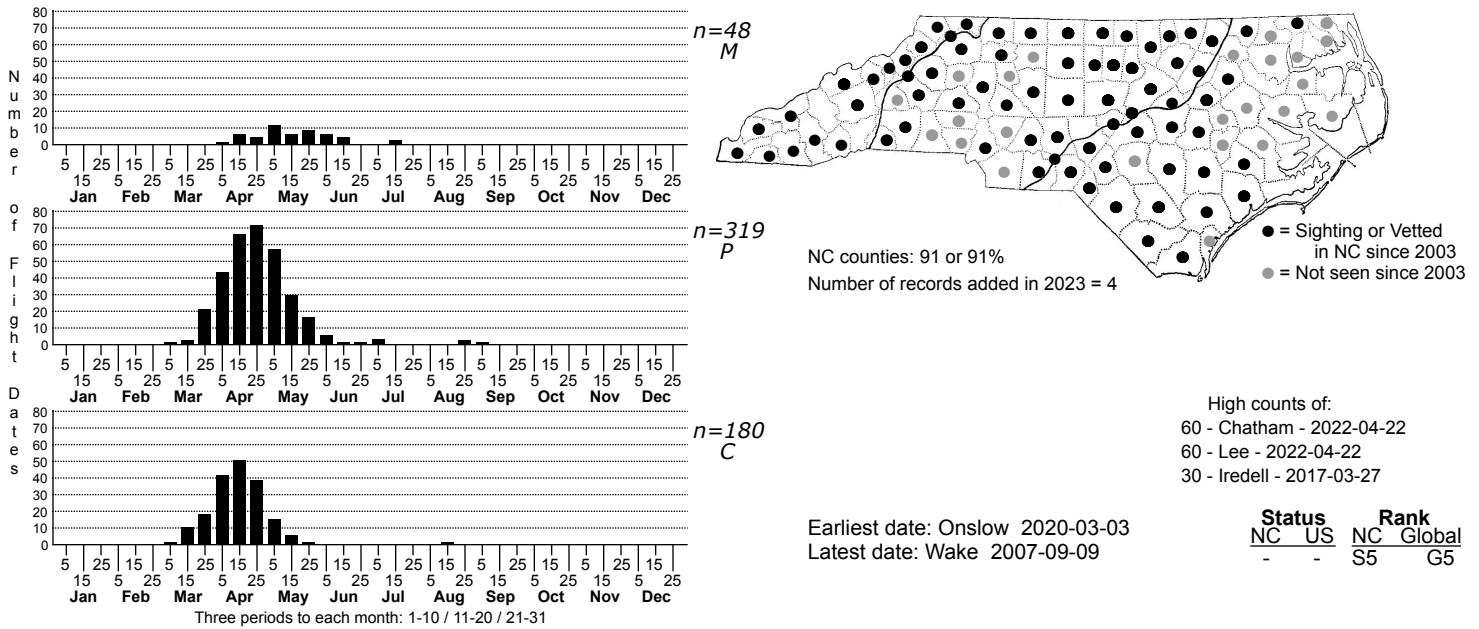


Didymops transversa Stream Cruiser



DISTRIBUTION: Essentially statewide, but scarce in the extreme eastern coastal areas (where most dragonfly species are also scarce to absent).

ABUNDANCE: Fairly common to common, and very widespread, across the Piedmont and at least the western and southern halves of the Coastal Plain. Uncommon in the lower Coastal Plain and in the mountains (where records are increasing, perhaps simply owing to more surveys). There are very few observers in the northern half of the Coastal Plain, and the scarcity of recent records there should not be taken as a decline in that region.

FLIGHT: Mid-March to mid-July, though primarily in the spring (i.e., mainly in April and May). There are a few records well into August and early September, but the flight is generally over in July. The flight in the mountains starts in early April.

HABITAT: A wide variety of creeks and rivers (though typically smaller rivers); rarely at lakes.

BEHAVIOR: Males patrol back and forth across streams. Adults are more often seen flying and perched well away from water, along dirt roads, sunny trails, and edges. They perch obliquely on twigs and other vegetation low to the ground, as do spiketails and darners (with which they often fly).

COMMENTS: Other than another *Didymops* species in Florida, this is the only member of its genus in most of the United States. Though unique from that standpoint, at a casual glance it could be confused with some darners, spiketails, or river cruisers. However, it is easily separated from all but river cruisers by its single yellow band on the side of the thorax, its yellow facial bar, and single pale yellow spots (not paired) on the top of the abdominal segments. The river cruisers have green (or brighter green) eyes and are blacker on the abdomen (not so brown), they fly later in summer, and they seldom perch near the ground. The Stream Cruiser is reasonably unwary, often allowing close study while perched obliquely on a twig.