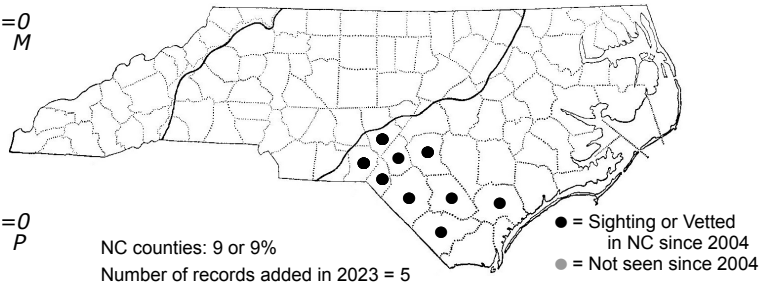
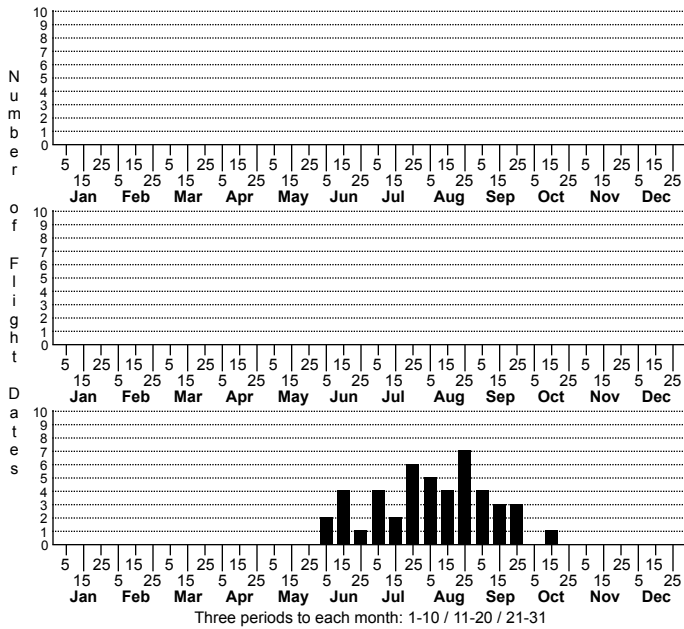


## *Dromogomphus armatus* Southeastern Spinyleg



Incomplete date not graphed:  
C=n+1

High counts of:  
4 - Richmond; C - 2024-06-07  
2 - Cumberland - 2007-06-20  
2 - Scotland - 2003-08-13

Earliest date: Richmond; C 2024-06-07  
Latest date: Robeson 1960-10-16

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
W	-	S3	G4

**DISTRIBUTION:** Limited in NC to the Sandhills and the southern Coastal Plain, mostly near the SC border. NC lies at the northern edge of the species' range.

**ABUNDANCE:** Uncommon in the Sandhills; less numerous -- rare to very uncommon -- in the Coastal Plain farther southeastward to the Black River (western Pender County). Surprisingly, all daily counts are just of one to two individuals. It is remarkable that after 50 or more years of odonate field work in the state, no one had found three or more in a day, until Lucas Wilson saw at least four in Richmond County on a day in June 2024! The species simply does not occur in groups, much less in swarms; once you've seen one on a walk, that is likely it for the day!

**FLIGHT:** Summer into early fall. Records occur between early June and mid-October; however, most are from late July to late September.

**HABITAT:** Breeds in rather acidic waters of seeps, springs, small streams, etc., mainly in or near forested habitats. Presumably uses pocosin streamheads in the Sandhills. A few records of adults are from along blackwater rivers and streams, though breeding sites are most likely at small pools, seeps, and other tiny and shaded wetlands.

**BEHAVIOR:** Can be seen flying along roads, trails, or brushy areas near wetlands; rarely over water of rivers and larger creeks. Perches frequently, both on the ground and on vegetation.

**COMMENTS:** This is one of the Sandhills' most spectacular odonates. Adults are large, and the bright rusty-orange club easily draws attention. Though a handful of other clubtails flying at that season have rusty-orange clubs (such as Russet-tipped Clubtail and Two-striped Forceptail), they typically are restricted to water and seldom perch on sand roads and other places well away from water.