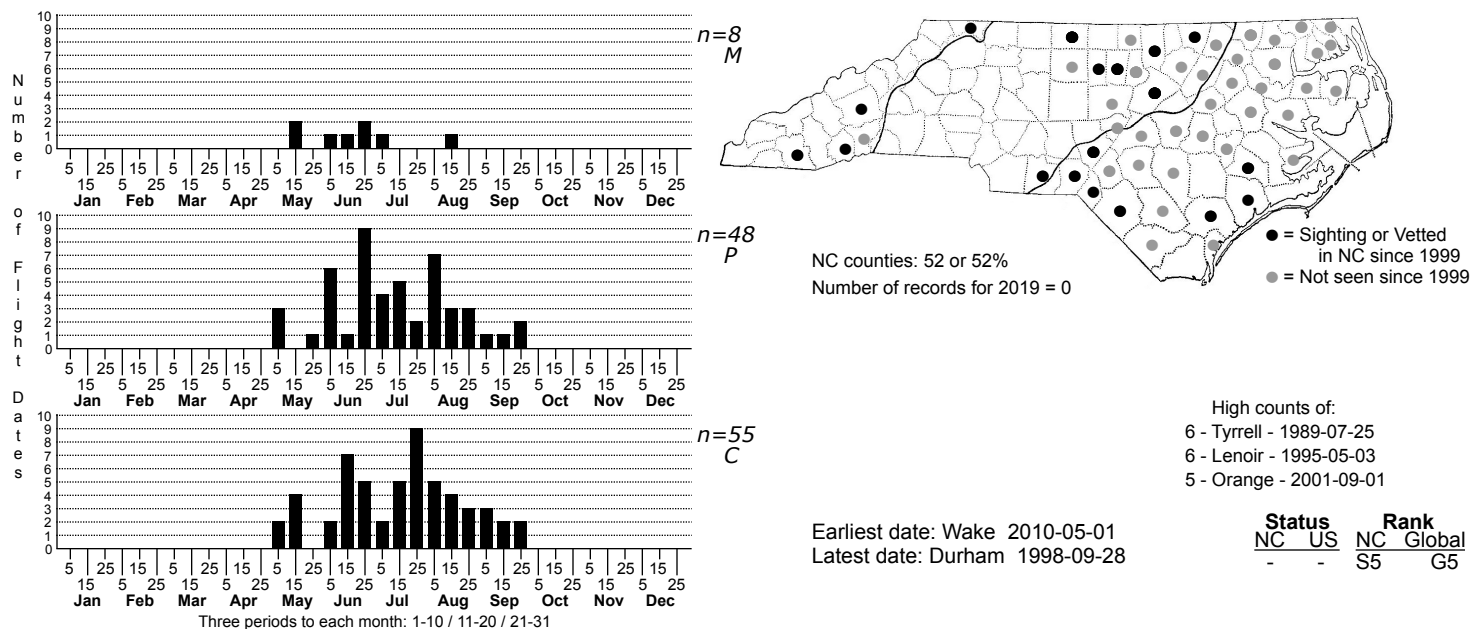


Lestes inaequalis Elegant Spreadingwing



DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Coastal Plain -- except perhaps absent along parts of the immediate coast -- westward to the central Piedmont; thus, the eastern half of the state, plus a scattering of mountain records. Interestingly, Paulson's (2011) range map shows the entire state within the range, as the species is present throughout the eastern half of the country. With the recent mountain records, it must be assumed to occur in the intervening western half of the Piedmont, as well. A recent (2018) sight record, of five individuals, from Alleghany County is the only record for the northwestern quarter of the state.

ABUNDANCE: Despite records for most of the counties within the range (52 counties), we have barely 20 recent records. Thus, it seems to be uncommon over the eastern Piedmont and most of the Coastal Plain, and likely is rare in many areas close to the coast (where there are no records for most counties that border the coast). Very rare in the southern mountains, and absent to very rare over the northern mountains and the western Piedmont.

FLIGHT: The flight period in both the Coastal Plain and the Piedmont is from early May to late September. The relatively few mountain records fall between mid-May and mid-August.

HABITAT: Ponds and lakes with emergent vegetation, including marshes. It also occurs along slow-moving streams, as long as marshy vegetation is present.

COMMENTS: The relative scarcity of recent records, especially in the Coastal Plain, is puzzling. Perhaps it is being overlooked, but there are also few biologists currently working in the Coastal Plain, especially on damselflies, and particularly in the northern half of the province.