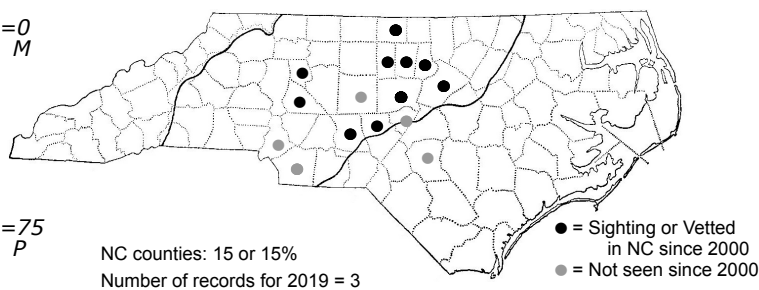
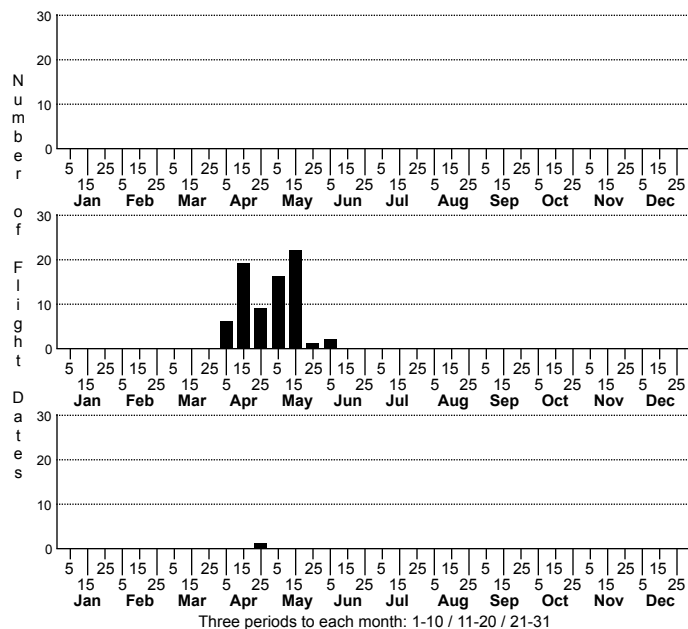


Hylogomphus abbreviatus Spine-crowned Clubtail



High counts of:
20 - Orange - 2017-04-02
10 - Montgomery - 2016-04-05
10 - Orange - 2019-04-15

Earliest date: Orange 2017-04-02
Latest date: Davie 2017-06-02

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
W	-	S3	G4

Synonym: *Gomphus abbreviatus*

DISTRIBUTION: Found only in the central and eastern Piedmont and the extreme southwestern corner of the Coastal Plain (at least in the Sandhills).

ABUNDANCE: Rare to uncommon in the eastern half of the Piedmont, and very rare in the southwestern Coastal Plain. However, it is easily overlooked or confused with other species. It can be common at a very few sites, as there are three recent double-digit counts, and another of 8 individuals, in three counties. Duncan Cuyler made several dozen collections in the lower Piedmont a few decades ago; but until about 2016, however, very little was known about this species in NC. Thankfully, the past few years have seen quite a few new records, many documented by photographs.

FLIGHT: Spring season only. The flight occurs from early April to early June. The peak was formerly during the first 20 days of May, but there are many recent April records, and the state high count was made on 2 April, our earliest state record!

HABITAT: This is another riverine species, favoring fast-flowing rivers and large streams.

BEHAVIOR: Seen mainly at or near streams, on rocks or vegetation. Dunkle (2000) states that males are most active in the late afternoon.

COMMENTS: As with most clubtails, even ones with a range in the eastern Piedmont (where the greatest number of odonate biologists live and conduct field work), this is a somewhat poorly known species, at least by observers and photographers. Most clubtails are difficult to identify unless netted or collected and then studied in the hand. This species looks quite similar to the Piedmont Clubtail, and it can also be confused with Banner Clubtail. Though its range extends from SC northward into Canada, it has a somewhat narrow east-west range, barely ranging west to OH. We have had a number of recent records, thankfully, and thus its range and abundance are becoming better known.