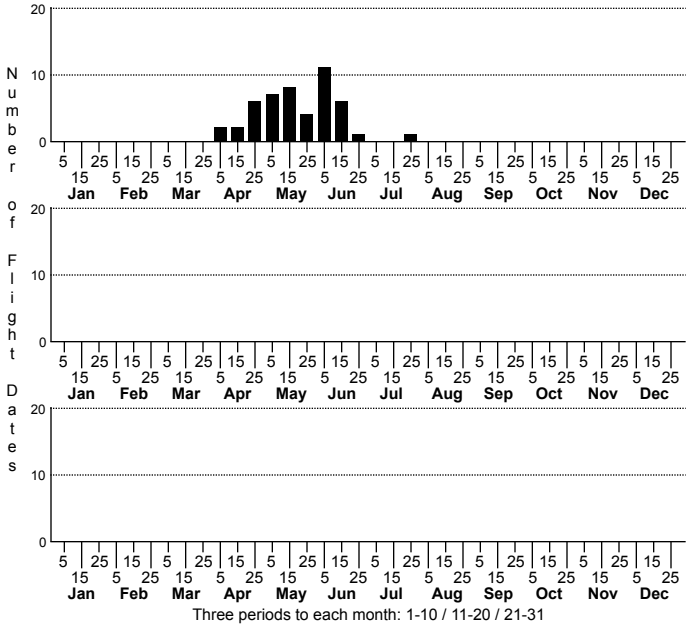
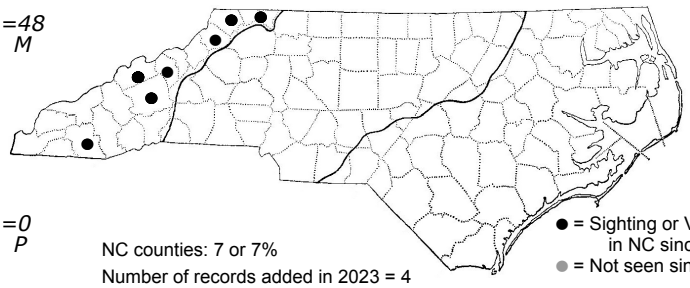
Hylogomphus viridifrons Green-faced Clubtail





● = Sighting or Vetted in NC since 2004
● = Not seen since 2004

NC counties: 7 or 7%
Number of records added in 2023 = 4

Photo (vetted) in 2023: Watauga

High counts of:
50 - Madison - 2023-04-28
20 - Madison - 2023-05-02
10 - Madison - 2023-04-20

Earliest date: Buncombe 2012-04-05
Latest date: Madison 2019-07-25

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
SR	-	S1	G3G4 [S1S2]

Synonym: *Gomphus viridifrons*

DISTRIBUTION: A Northern species, with the southeastern edge of the range reaching the mountains of the Carolinas and extreme northeastern GA (Rabun County). So far, NC records are only for Ashe, Alleghany, Buncombe, Madison, Macon, Watauga, and Yancey counties; however, it is likely being overlooked because of identification difficulties.

ABUNDANCE: Dunkle (2000) says it is "scarce" within its overall range, and NatureServe gives it a G3G4 (rare to uncommon) global rank. Thus, it is assumed to also be rare in NC, especially considering that we have only 48 state records with dates. However, it is not rare immediately along the French Broad River in Madison and Buncombe counties, at least in recent years.

FLIGHT: Mainly late April into mid- or late June, but there are two fairly recent records in early April; the flight period might be moving earlier in the past few years.

HABITAT: Rocky and fast-moving rivers and large streams. Likes a mixed substrate of silt and gravel.

BEHAVIOR: The species is most active late in the afternoon or in cloudy conditions. Males may perch on rocks in the rivers, or on vegetation or the ground near the shore.

COMMENTS: This is one of many clubtails that are poorly known in NC, as well as rather rare/scarce throughout the overall range. Thankfully, the large gap in the NC range between Ashe and Macon counties was "filled" by records from Madison and Buncombe counties in spring 2012, in Yancey in 2021, and Watauga in 2023. Jeff Pippen photographed one (shown on his website) from many angles, on 9 April, and this set of photos was reviewed by experts and determined to be this seemingly rare species. This is a difficult-to-identify species; in fact, several of this website's reviewers/editors have determined in 2016 and 2017 that quite a few photo records previously identified as Mustached Clubtail appear to be Green-faced Clubtail, and have been moved to this species account. Also, Green-faced Clubtail can easily be confused with Cobra Clubtail. All three species occur, or are believed to occur, along the French Broad River in Madison and Buncombe counties. What is most puzzling is that, despite this flurry of recent photographic records from Buncombe and Madison Counties, Duncan Cuyler never collected any individuals of Green-faced Clubtail from either of these counties!

With the increase in records (and counties) in the past few years, the State Rank probably should be moved from S1 down to S1S2 or to S2, as it no longer is critically endangered in the state; the editors suggest S1S2 for a revised State Rank.