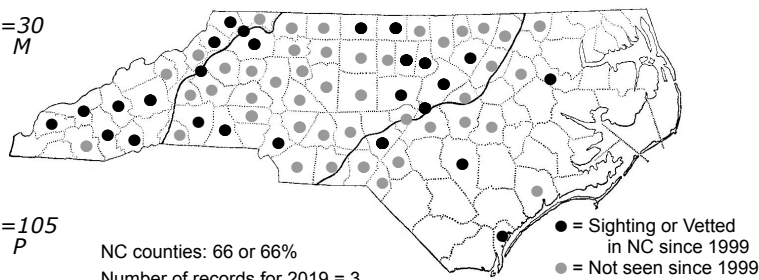
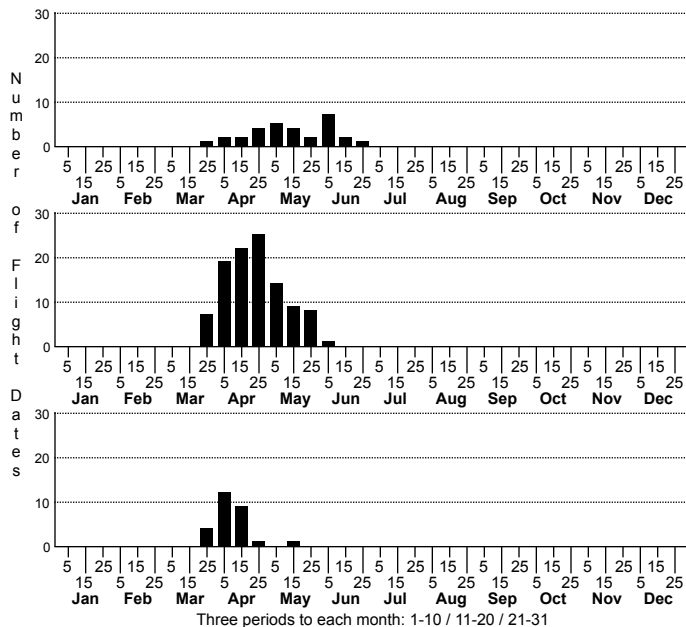


Cordulegaster maculata Twin-spotted Spiketail



High counts of:
6 - Caswell - 2007-03-31
4 - Orange - 1966-04-23
4 - Orange - 1976-04-18

Earliest date: Mecklenburg 2017-03-21
Latest date: Jackson 2018-06-26

Status	Rank	
	NC	Global
-	-	S5
-	-	G5

DISTRIBUTION: Throughout the Piedmont, and essentially throughout the mountains and the western third/half of the Coastal Plain, being nearly absent from most counties east of Martin, Wayne, and Sampson (except for Onslow and New Hanover county records). Of somewhat spotty distribution in the southern half of the mountains. The range is thus somewhat similar to that of the Brown Spiketail in NC, but that species has been found in many fewer counties and its abundance is centered in the mountains and foothills; the Brown also has not yet been found in coastal counties.

ABUNDANCE: Declining in recent years. Uncommon but widespread in the Piedmont and extreme western Coastal Plain; rare to uncommon in the mountains, but quite rare in the central Coastal Plain and near the southern coast. Though not as numerous as many other spring-flying dragonflies, it is the most often seen spiketail in NC (but often outnumbered in the mountains by the Brown Spiketail). Shockingly, if not disturbingly, there were only two reports for the entire state in 2017 and only two more in 2018 -- clearly indicating a disturbing decline (for unknown reasons).

FLIGHT: Downstate, primarily from very late March to late May, with the peak in April. The mountain flight occurs from late March to mid-June, though it is scarce before May.

HABITAT: Creeks or small rivers, of many sizes and substrates, for breeding. These are typically in forested or semi-shaded areas and fairly pristine or clear waters.

BEHAVIOR: Males cruise along streams, but adults are more often seen well away from water along wooded roads or wide trails or wood margins. They perch conspicuously on twigs and other vegetation, in an oblique manner, typically only a foot or two above the ground, where easily studied.

COMMENTS: This is one of the larger and more spectacular of the spring-season (only) dragonflies. It can be confused with the Brown Spiketail, which is less numerous (except in the mountains), is browner on the abdomen, has somewhat more equal-sized yellow spots on the abdomen, and is slightly smaller in length. In 2014, several observers found a colony close to the coast in New Hanover County and documented this noteworthy record with photos.