

**CHECKLIST OF THE ODONATA (DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES)
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
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by
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Eighty-seven species of dragonflies (including damselflies) in the order Odonata are reported from British Columbia. These species are listed below and are described in the publication: *Introducing the Dragonflies of British Columbia and the Yukon* by Robert A. Cannings, published by the Royal British Columbia Museum, Victoria, BC, in 2002. A few name changes have occurred since this book appeared, so not all names listed here will match those in the book. Please refer to the E-Fauna Odonata atlas pages for further information.

Each species is placed in a faunal element depending on its geographical distribution. See the discussion of faunal elements that is presented below, following the species checklists. In addition, those that have holarctic distributions (transcontinental ranges in both North America and Eurasia) are indicated (H).

Nomenclature in this list follows the Dragonfly Society of the Americas, 2008. The Odonata of North America (ed. Dennis R. Paulson). <http://www.ups.edu/x7015.xml>

SUBORDER ZYGOPTERA (DAMSELFLIES)

FAMILY CALOPTERYGIDAE (JEWELWINGS) (1 species)

Calopteryx aequabilis Say* (River Jewelwing) Transition

FAMILY LESTIDAE (SPREADWINGS) (5 species)

Lestes congener Hagen (Spotted Spreadwing) Widespread

Lestes disjunctus Selys (Northern Spreadwing) Widespread

Lestes dryas Kirby (Emerald Spreadwing) Widespread (H)

Lestes forcipatus Rambur (Sweetflag Spreadwing) Austral

Lestes unguiculatus Hagen (Lyre-tipped Spreadwing) Widespread

FAMILY COENAGRIONIDAE (POND DAMSELS) (18 species)

Amphiagrion abbreviatum (Selys) (Western Red Damsel) Western

Argia emma Kennedy* (Emma's Dancer). Cordilleran

Argia vivida Hagen* (Vivid Dancer) Cordilleran

*Coenagrion angulatum** Walker (Prairie Bluet) Western

Coenagrion interrogatum (Hagen) (Subarctic Bluet) Northern Boreal
Coenagrion resolutum (Hagen) (Taiga Bluet) Widespread Boreal
Enallagma annexum (Hagen) (Northern Bluet) Widespread Boreal
Enallagma boreale Selys (Boreal Bluet) Widespread Boreal
Enallagma carunculatum Morse (Tule Bluet) Austral
Enallagma civile (Hagen)* (Familiar Bluet) Austral
Enallagma clausum Morse (Alkali Bluet) Western
Enallagma ebrium (Hagen) (Marsh Bluet) Transition
Enallagma hageni (Walsh)* (Hagen's Bluet) Transition
Ischnura cervula Selys (Pacific Forktail) Cordilleran
Ischnura damula Calvert* (Plains Forktail) Western
Ischnura erratica Calvert (Swift Forktail) Pacific Coastal
Ischnura perparva Selys (Western Forktail) Western
Nehalennia irene (Hagen) (Sedge Sprite) Southern Boreal

SUBORDER ANISOPTERA (DRAGONFLIES)

FAMILY AESHNIDAE (DARNERS) (14 species)

Aeshna canadensis Walker (Canada Darner) Transition
Aeshna constricta Say* (Lance-tipped Darner) Transition
Aeshna eremita Scudder (Lake Darner) Widespread Boreal
Aeshna interrupta Walker (Variable Darner) Southern Boreal
Aeshna juncea (Linnaeus) (Sedge Darner) Widespread Boreal (H)
Aeshna palmata Hagen (Paddle-tailed Darner) Cordilleran
Aeshna septentrionalis Burmeister (Azure Darner) Northern Boreal
Aeshna sitchensis Hagen (Zigzag Darner) Widespread Boreal
Aeshna subarctica Walker (Subarctic Darner) Widespread Boreal (H)
Aeshna tuberculifera Walker (Black-tipped Darner) Transition
Aeshna umbrosa Walker (Shadow Darner) Transition
Anax junius (Drury) (Green Darner) Austral (also in parts of Asia and Oceania)
Rhionaeschna californica (Calvert) (California Darner) Cordilleran
Rhionaeschna multicolor (Hagen) (Blue-eyed Darner) Western

FAMILY PETALURIDAE (PETALTAILS) (1 species)

Tanypteryx hageni (Selys)* (Black Petaltail) Cordilleran

FAMILY GOMPHIDAE (CLUBTAILS) (6 species)

Gomphus graslinellus Walsh* (Pronghorn Clubtail) Transition
Octogomphus specularis (Hagen)* (Grappletail) Pacific Coastal
Ophiogomphus colubrinus Selys (Boreal Snaketail) Southern Boreal
Ophiogomphus occidentis Hagen (Sinuous Snaketail) Cordilleran
Ophiogomphus severus Hagen (Pale Snaketail) Western
Stylurus olivaceus (Selys)* (Olive Clubtail) Cordilleran

FAMILY CORDULEGASTRIDAE (SPIKETAILS) (1 species)

Cordulegaster dorsalis Hagen (Pacific Spiketail) Cordilleran

FAMILY MACROMIIDAE (CRUISERS) (2 species)

Macromia magnifica MacLachlan* (Western River Cruiser) Cordilleran

FAMILY CORDULIIDAE (EMERALDS) (15 species)

Cordulia shurtleffii Scudder (American Emerald) Widespread Boreal

Epitheca canis MacLachlan* (Beaverpond Baskettail) Transition

Epitheca spinigera (Selys) (Spiny Baskettail) Transition

Somatochlora albicincta (Burmeister). (Ringed Emerald) Widespread Boreal

Somatochlora brevicincta Robert* (Quebec Emerald) Southern Boreal

Somatochlora cingulata (Selys) (Lake Emerald) Southern Boreal

Somatochlora forcipata (Scudder)* (Forcipate Emerald) Transition

Somatochlora franklini (Selys) (Delicate Emerald) Widespread Boreal

Somatochlora hudsonica (Selys) (Hudsonian Emerald) Western Boreal

Somatochlora kennedyi Walker* (Kennedy's Emerald) Southern Boreal

Somatochlora minor Calvert (Ocellated Emerald) Southern Boreal

Somatochlora semicircularis (Selys) (Mountain Emerald) Cordilleran

Somatochlora septentrionalis (Hagen) (Muskeg Emerald) Northern Boreal

Somatochlora walshii (Scudder) (Brush-tipped Emerald) Southern Boreal

Somatochlora whitehousei Walker (Whitehouse's Emerald) Widespread Boreal

FAMILY LIBELLULIDAE (SKIMMERS) (25 species)

Erythemis collocata (Hagen)* (Western Pondhawk) Western

Ladona julia (Uhler) (Chalk-fronted Skimmer) Transition

Leucorrhinia borealis Hagen (Boreal Whiteface) Western Boreal

Leucorrhinia glacialis Hagen (Crimson-ringed Whiteface) Transition

Leucorrhinia hudsonica (Selys) (Hudsonian Whiteface) Widespread Boreal

Leucorrhinia intacta (Hagen) (Dot-tailed Whiteface) Transition

Leucorrhinia patricia Walker (Canada Whiteface) Northern Boreal

Leucorrhinia proxima Calvert (Belted Whiteface) Southern Boreal

Libellula forensis Hagen (Eight-spotted Skimmer) Cordilleran

Libellula pulchella Drury* (Twelve-spotted Skimmer) Austral

Libellula quadrimaculata Linnaeus (Four-spotted Skimmer) Widespread (H)

Pachydiplax longipennis (Burmeister)* (Blue Dasher) Austral

Pantala hymenaea (Say) (Spot-winged Glider) Austral

Plathemis lydia (Drury) (Common Whitetail) Austral

Sympetrum corruptum (Hagen) (Variegated Meadowhawk) Widespread (also in far-eastern Russia)

Sympetrum costiferum (Hagen) (Saffron-winged Meadowhawk) Transition

Sympetrum danae (Sulzer) (Black Meadowhawk) Widespread Boreal (H)
Sympetrum illotum (Hagen) (Cardinal Meadowhawk) Cordilleran
Sympetrum internum Montgomery (Cherry-faced Meadowhawk) Transition
Sympetrum madidum (Hagen) (Red-veined Meadowhawk) Western
Sympetrum obtrusum (Hagen) (White-faced Meadowhawk) Transition
Sympetrum pallipes (Hagen) (Striped Meadowhawk) Western
Sympetrum semicinatum (Say) (Band-winged Meadowhawk) Transition
Sympetrum vicinum (Hagen)* (Autumn Meadowhawk) Austral
Tramea lacerata Hagen* (Black Saddlebags) Austral

Faunal elements

Species may be grouped with others that share similar distributions to form what can be termed faunal elements. Those relevant to the British Columbia and Yukon region are:

1) Boreal -- species occurring in the northern spruce (*Picea*) forests, across the boreal zone from treeline to the southern margin. In general, these species range from the Atlantic Provinces across the northern New England states, Quebec, northern Ontario, parts of the northern tier of mid-western states, the Prairie Provinces north of the Great Plains, and northern British Columbia, often ranging considerably southward in the higher mountains and plateaus of the western Cordillera. These species can be further subdivided into:

- i) Widespread Boreal: with ranges as described above.
- ii) Northern Boreal: species that are common near the northern treeline, but that are virtually absent from the northern contiguous United States and from the southeastern Atlantic Provinces, and do not extend far south into the Cordillera.
- iii) Southern Boreal: species that are uncommon north of 60°N in the west and absent near the Arctic treeline in the east, but ranging far down the Cordillera and/or into the southeastern Atlantic Provinces and New England states. Some (e.g. *Aeshna interrupta* Walker) are common on the Great Plains.
- iv) Western Boreal: species not found east of Hudson Bay.

2) East Beringian: Species confined to the extreme northwest in the New World, presumably having lived in the Beringian glacial refugium during the Pleistocene. The only species here, *Somatochlora sahlbergi* Tryböm, can be termed Palearctic-East Beringian because the vast majority of its range is in Eurasia.

3) Transition -- species generally most common in the southern boreal forests and adjacent montane forests in the West and mixed and deciduous forests in the East.

4) Cordilleran -- species confined to the western mountains and their intervening valleys and plateaus.

5) Pacific Coastal – species confined to the lowlands of the Pacific Coast.

6) Western -- species confined to west of the 100th meridian, but otherwise ranging widely in North America.

7) Austral -- species transcontinental in the southern part of North America and, at the northern extremities of their ranges, entering Canada to varying degrees along the international boundary.

8) Widespread -- species with broad distributions in North America, from north to south and east to west, overlapping several of the other elements listed. These species range into boreal regions to varying degrees.

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