

Dragonfly Identification

- Dragonflies are larger and more robust compared to Damselflies.
- At rest, they hold their wings at right angles to their body
- Their eyes are larger and meet at the top of their head
- Forewings and hindwings are different
- They have a strong, fast and agile flight
- Use features such as head markings, eye colouration, leg colouration, body markings and wing markings and flight behaviour to help with identification



Common Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax imperator*)

Large with a drooping abdomen in flight. Males are sky blue and females usually green and both sexes have a central dark line along the body. Rarely found away from water.

7.8cm
June–August



Male



Female

Lesser Emperor Dragonfly (*Anax parthenope*)

Smaller and duller than Common Emperor. Abdomen has a black line running up centre. This line runs along the whole abdomen in females but not in males. Males have a clear waist, females do not. Females can be green or blue. Found near ponds.

7.1cm
June–August



Male



Female

Common Darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*)

Small. Males dull to bright orange-red with yellow sides. Females yellow which dulls /reddens with age. Both have pale leg stripes. Found away from water resting on tops of plants.

3.8–4.3cm
July–October



Male



Female

Red-veined Darter (*Sympetrum fonscolombii*)

Small. Males deep red with red wing veins. Single pale stripe down side. Females yellow with yellow wing veins. Both have blue colouration in the eyes. Wide range habitats.

3.8–4cm
May–October



Male



Female

Black-tailed Skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*)

Medium with tapering body. Males blue-grey body and females yellow with dark ladder pattern. Found near water. Males usually rest on bare, sunny ground.

4–5cm
May–August



Male



Female

Migrant Hawker (*Aesha mixta*)

Small with paired spots on body. Males are dark with blue spots, females brown with yellow spots. Yellow 'golf tee' shape near top of body. Found near water, along hedges and woodland edges.

3 – 3.8cm
July–November



Male



Female



Please note that males and females of species can look different to these photos, especially after first emerging

If you see something different or if you are unsure of identification then try and get a photo and send it to the Nature Commission - office@naturecommission.gg

Damselfly Identification

- Damselflies are small, with a thin body
- At rest, they hold their wings close along the length of their body
- Eyes are always separated
- Wings are equal size and shape
- They have a slow and weak flight compared to dragonflies
- Use features such as head markings, eye colouration, leg colouration, body markings and wing markings and flight behaviour to help with identification



Blue-tailed Damselfly (*Ischnura elegans*)

Small and dark. Males blue with light-blue tip to body. Females come in 5 different colour forms but have light spot at end of body. Wide range habitats.

3.1 cm

April-September



Male



Female

Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*)

Large metallic-looking damselfly with butterfly-like wings. Males metallic blue with dark wings. Females metallic green/bronze with translucent pale brown wings. Streams and bankside vegetation.

4.5cm

May-September



Male



Female

Common Blue Damselfly (*Enallagma cyathigerum*)

Small and dark. Males blue and black with mushroom shaped mark on segment 2 of body. Females black and either blue or dull green with thistle shaped mark.

3.2 cm

April-September



Male



Female

Azure Damselfly (*Coenagrion puella*)

Small. Males pale blue and black with 'U' shaped marking on segment 2 of the body. Females green and black. Azure has thinner stripes just behind head compared to Common Blue Damselfly. Small ponds and streams, edge of large waterbodies.

3.3 cm

April-September



Male



Female

Willow Emerald Damselfly (*Chalcolestes viridis*)

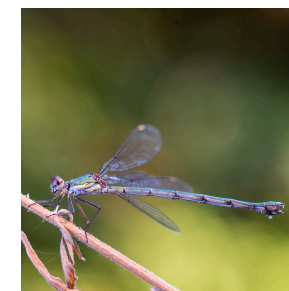
Dark metallic green and pale wing spots. Green spur mark on side of body. Male has very long abdomen and pale 'claspers' with black tips at the end of the abdomen. Female dark ovipositor (underneath abdomen tip). Still water with overhanging trees.

3.9-4.7cm

June-November



Male



Female

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