

# CHECKLIST OF THE ODONATA (DRAGONFLIES AND DAMSELFLIES) OF BRITISH COLUMBIA

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Eighty-eight species of dragonflies and damselflies in the order Odonata are reported from British Columbia. Each species is placed in a faunal element depending on its geographical distribution (see below). In addition, those that have holarctic distributions (transcontinental ranges in both North America and Eurasia) are indicated (H).

## SUBORDER ZYGOPTERA (DAMSELFLIES)

### FAMILY CALOPTERYGIDAE (JEWELWINGS) (1 species)

*Calopteryx aequabilis* Say (River Jewelwing) Transition

### FAMILY LESTIDAE (SPREADWINGS) (6 species)

*Archilestes californicus* McLachlan (California Spreadwing) Cordillleran

*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). Cordillleran

*Argia vivida* Hagen (Vivid Dancer) Cordillleran

*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) Cordillleran

*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)**

*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  
*Phanogomphus graslinellus* Walsh (Pronghorn Clubtail) Transition  
*Stylurus olivaceus* (Selys) (Olive Clubtail) Cordilleran

**FAMILY CORDULEGASTRIDAE (SPIKETAILS) (1 species)**

*Cordulegaster dorsalis* Hagen (Pacific Spiketail) Cordilleran

**FAMILY MACROMIIDAE (CRUISERS) (1 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 semicinctum* (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 British Columbia 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) 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.

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

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

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

6) 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.

7) 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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