

Autumn Meadowhawk

Sympetrum vicinum

A member of the family Libellulidae (“Skimmer” dragonflies), which along with its subfamilies and allies forms the largest dragonfly family in the world. Members within the genus *Sympetrum* are referred to as “Meadowhawks” or “Darters.” Autumn Meadowhawk was previously referred to as Yellow-legged Meadowhawk.



Male



Mating pair Ian Lane



Male Ryan Durand



Female Cody Hough Wikipedia

Characteristics

Length: males 3.2—3.5 cm, females 2.6—3.4 cm. Males and females are dimorphic in colour (males are larger). Both sexes of this species lack much in the way of markings or patterning. In mature males, the face, eyes, thorax and abdomen are shades of red to reddish brown; legs are yellow to reddish-brown. In females the face is light brown with brown and green eyes. The thorax is yellow to grey, the legs yellowish, and the abdomen brown. Females have a prominent v-shaped ovipositor (structure used to place eggs). Immature individuals tend to be yellow or similar to females, taking on deeper colouration according to sex as they mature. The pterostigma (coloured, thickened cell on the leading edge of each wing membrane near the tip), is reddish-brown. In some regions (in the US), this species is known to change colour with cool weather, with the male's red coloration shifting to orange, then brown with dropping temperatures. The 1.2-1.5 cm larvae ("nymphs") are mottled green and brown in color with several large dorsal hooks along the abdomen. The last two abdominal segments have a single, large, rear-facing spine on each side.

Status

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| Global Status: | G5 |
| Provincial Status: | S3S4 |
| BC List Status: | Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern) |

Resources

For further information see

[The Dragonflies \(Insecta: Odonata\) of Northern British Columbia: Field Surveys, Collections Development and Public Education](#)

As part of the Living Landscapes Project in northern British Columbia (BC), the Royal British Columbia Museum (RBCM) and the Ministry of Environment's British Columbia Conservation Data Centre (CDC) joined forces, beginning in 2000, to study the dragonflies (Insecta: Odonata) of the region. The study area includes the province north of about 52° N, approximately the latitude of Williams Lake.

[Odonata Central](#)

[Northwest Dragonflyer](#)

[BC Species and Ecosystems Explorer: Species and Ecosystems Search](#)

A source for authoritative conservation information on thousands of plants and animals and hundreds of ecological communities in BC. From here connect to all provincial and federal recovery plans (including the SARA Registry), COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada), Identified Wildlife guidance and conservation requirements for specific species and ecological communities of conservation concern impacted by forestry activities) and links to E-Flora and E-Fauna (the Electronic Atlas of the Plants and Wildlife of British Columbia).

[British Columbia's Coast Region Species & Ecosystems of Conservation Concern](#)

A joint venture resource providing comprehensive information on a range of species and ecological communities specific to the Coast Region of BC (including the South, Central and North Coast, Vancouver Island and Haida Gwaii).

[Develop With Care Guidelines \(see Lower Mainland Region section\)](#)

Environmental guidelines for urban and rural land development in BC.

Species at Risk & Local Governments a Primer for BC

Learn what species are at risk in your area, search by name, habitat type, regional district and forest district.

Source URL: <http://sccp.ca/species-habitat/autumn-meadowhawk>

Links

[1] <http://royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/assets/Living-Landscapes-Northern-Odonata-report-2005.pdf>

[2] <http://www.odonatacentral.org/>

[3] http://nwdragonflier.blogspot.ca/p/web-resources_06.html

[4] <http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/plants-animals-ecosystems/conservation-data-centre/explore-cdc-data/species-and-ecosystems-explorer>

[5] <http://www.geog.ubc.ca/biodiversity/factsheets/>

[6] http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html

[7] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>