

Published on *South Coast Conservation Program* (<http://sccp.ca>)

### Blue Dasher

*Pachydiplax longipennis*

A member of the family Libellulidae (“Skimmer” dragonflies), which along with its subfamilies and allies forms the largest dragonfly family in the world. In North America the genus *Pachydiplax* contains only one species - *longipennis*.



Female Eugene Zelenko Flickr



Immature male eyecolour E. Zelenko



Male John Pickering



Male Leamaimone Wikipedia



Immature male R.A. Nonemacher  
Wikipedia



Male Ian Lane

## Characteristics

*Length: males 3.6 — 4.1 cm, females: 3.5 — 4.0 cm.* Sexes are similar in size but are dimorphic in colour. Adult males have large, blue-green eyes that meet across the top of the head. Eyes of females and immature males are light green with the upper part of the eye reddish-brown (more extensive on immature males). The face of both sexes is white. On males the wing base is tinted with blue and gold, on females the wing base can be brown or without colour. The thorax is yellow with heavy dark stripes. Striping is paler on females and immature males and the thorax is pale green. Mature males have distinct “pruinose” (dusty or frosty looking) blue abdomens, with the ventral area of the upper abdominal segments yellow and the lowest abdominal segments blue-black. Females have yellow abdomens with dull brown patterning. The lower abdominal segments can be completely brown. Immature males are similar to females in colouration on the abdomen (though patterning can be darker and shows a slight pruinescence as they mature). The pterostigma (coloured, thickened cell on the leading edge of each wing membrane near the tip), is long and narrow. Wings are often cocked downward when perching. The 1.8-2.1 cm larvae have prominent eyes with a dark ridge running inward from the back of each eye. Larvae are cream coloured dorsally with distinct dark bands and brown spotting. The ventral area of the abdomen is bright green. Larvae have a single, rear-facing spine on each side of the eighth and ninth abdominal segments. Dorsal hooks on the abdomen are absent.

## Status

**Global Status:** G5

**Provincial Status:** S3S4

**BC List Status:** Blue (Considered to be of Special Concern)

## Resources

### For further information see

#### [Living Landscapes Royal BC Museum - Dragonflies](#)

#### [Odonta 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/blue-dasher>

#### Links

- [1] <https://www.royalbcmuseum.bc.ca/exhibits/living-landscapes/northwest/dragonflies/index.htm>
- [2] <http://www.odonatacentral.org/>
- [3] [http://nwdragonflyer.blogspot.ca/p/web-resources\\_06.html](http://nwdragonflyer.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](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/documents/bmp/devwithcare2006/develop_with_care_intro.html)
- [7] <http://www.speciesatrisk.bc.ca/>