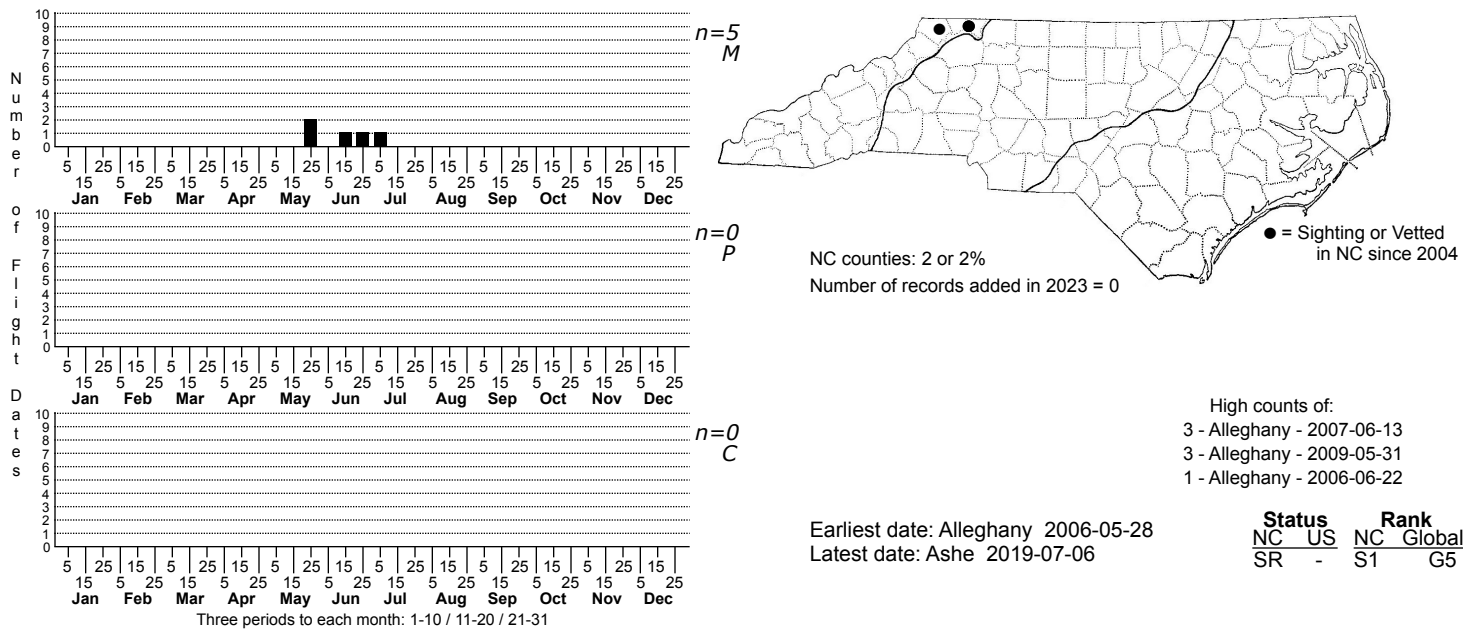


Ophiogomphus rupinsulensis Rusty Snaketail



DISTRIBUTION: Northern, ranging south to extreme northwestern NC and TN. Known in NC only from Alleghany and Ashe counties, where first reported (photos) in 2006. The only records so far are from the New River (which includes the South Fork of this river).

ABUNDANCE: Certainly must be very rare in NC. Within its fairly broad/wide range, however, Dunkle (2000) calls it "fairly common".

FLIGHT: The NC records fall between 28 May and 6 July. However, Mead (2003) gives a wide range from mid-May to mid-August for the MN area, and Dunkle (2000) gives "Early May to late Sep."; this is a remarkably wide spread of flight dates for any clubtail!

HABITAT: Large streams and rivers, where water is clear, with rapids and riffles.

BEHAVIOR: Adults, where present, are rather easily seen, as they often perch on dirt or other ground or low vegetation. As with most clubtails, males often perch on rocks in the rivers while guarding territories.

COMMENTS: This species had been reported to occur in NC in one or more references prior to 2006, though we were aware of no documentation, and Duncan Cuyler had no specimen data for the species in NC. Fortunately, while photographing dragonflies at the Alleghany County section of New River State Park on 28 May and again on 22 June, 2006, Ted Wilcox documented this species along the margins of the New River with excellent photographs. Sharon Watson photographed one along the South Fork New River in central Ashe County on 6 July 2019.