

Hylogomphus apomyius Banner Clubtail

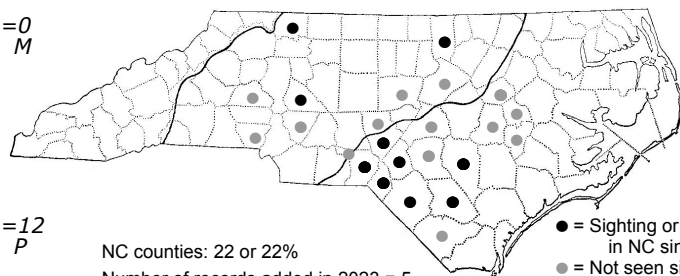
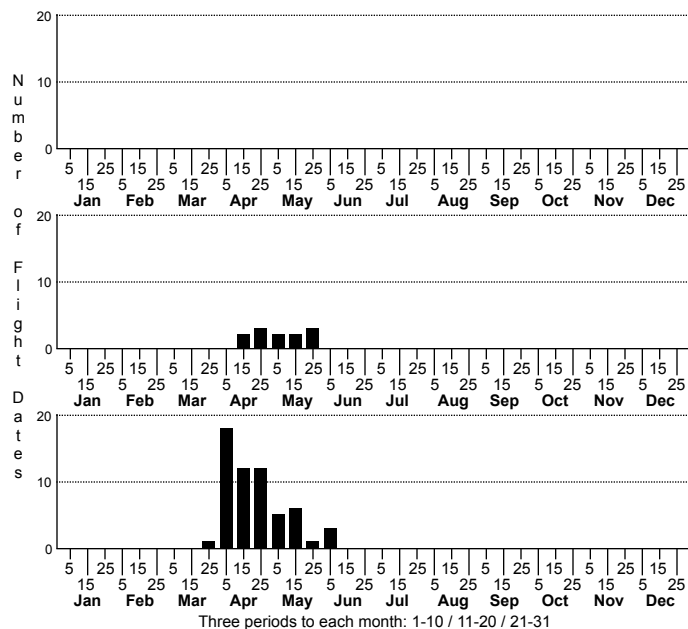


Photo (vetted) in 2024: Rowan

Incomplete date not graphed:
 C=n+1

Earliest date: Hoke 2023-03-30
 Latest date: Harnett; C 1987-06-10

Synonym: *Gomphus apomyius*

High counts of:
 18 - Scotland - 2022-04-10
 18 - Hoke - 2022-04-10
 10 - Cumberland - 1988-04-09

Status		Rank	
NC	US	NC	Global
W	-	S3	G3G4

DISTRIBUTION: Primarily found in the southwestern quarter of the Coastal Plain, ranging northeastward to the west-central Coastal Plain, and also into the southeastern Piedmont -- west to Catawba and Gaston counties. A photograph in 2019 established a new record for Surry County in the northwestern Piedmont, quite a surprising extension of the range. It is absent from coastal counties. NC lies at the northeastern end of the range, and thus Wilson, Granville (newly found in 2021), and Surry form the northern border of the range.

ABUNDANCE: Uncommon, at least in former years; might now be better stated "rare to uncommon and somewhat poorly known", as there are no recent records for nearly all of the Piedmont nor for the west-central Coastal Plain. Records are increasing in recent years, owing to more observers, including photos on iNaturalist, and clearly not rare in the southwestern Coastal Plain. Dunkle (2000) calls the species "scarce", and Beaton (2007) calls it "rare and local" in its range in Georgia.

FLIGHT: Ranges from very early April to early June in the Coastal Plain. In the Piedmont, the flight appears to be slightly narrower -- mid-April to late May.

HABITAT: Generally in clean streams and rivers with sandy or gravelly bottoms.

BEHAVIOR: Males perch on rocks or other perches close to rivers and streams. They are most active early in the morning and toward dusk.

COMMENTS: This is one of the smaller clubtails (only up to 1.5 inches in length). Males have a very wide club. Despite its range occurring close to the locations of many biologists, it is poorly known to most persons, and thus the N.C. Natural Heritage Program has the species on its Watch List. The species can be easily confused with the Spine-crowned Clubtail; in fact, several former reports and photos listed as Banner Clubtail have been re-evaluated and determined to be Spine-crowned Clubtail. It is likely that this species has declined in the state since the time of Cuyler's collecting efforts; there are relatively few reports since the 1980s in the northern half of the range in the state (north of Moore and Sampson counties). Notable recent range extensions were made by Richard Stickney, who photographed the Banner Clubtail from Surry County in 2019; and by John Petranka, who added new records for Granville County, along the Tar River, in spring 2021.

It still probably should remain on the Watch List, as there is a lack of records from much of the former range (e.g., the southwestern Piedmont and the central Coastal Plain) as documented by Duncan Cuyler with his older collections. In late 2020, the N.C. Natural Heritage Program moved the rank to straight S3, though it stays on the Watch List.