

***Stylurus spiniceps* (Walsh)**

Arrow Clubtail

25 Jun - 14 Oct

Common

54-68 mm (2.1-2.7 in.)

Large

MALE: Head: black. Face: dark brown w/ gray-green upper surface of frons. Eyes: dark green, light bar between eyes. Thorax: dark brown w/ gray-green stripes. Abdomen: elongate, black, dorsal S2-6 tiny yellow arrowheads toward front, S7-8 elongated yellow points, S9 yellow mark; lateral S1-3 yellow marks, S4-7 tiny yellow marks, S8-9 larger marks; clubbed w/ S7 longest, S8 shortest (w/ rim); ventral S8-9 rusty color; large genitalia on S2. Legs: black, paler near body. Wings: slightly flavescent basal. Stigmas: brown. Appendages: blackish.

FEMALE: Head: pair of large horns on occiput. Abdomen: less clubbed.

Habitat: In grasses and willows along banks of rivers or high in treetops. Sand-bottomed areas of medium to fast streams. Fly late in day (4-5 PM; DCz); likes 90° weather.

Reproduction: Patrolling: swift and straight over water. Female oviposits into riffles of small brook. [DCz found breeding adult *S. plagiatus/spiniceps* in dappled sun, riffles w/ overhanging trees.] Exuviae in stream on rock sides or logs in water. Notes: Was *Gomphus spiniceps*. Exuviae are easier to find than adults.

Similar Species: *S. spiniceps* is predominant in the Piedmont; *S. laurae* (Laura's C.) in the fall zone; and *S. plagiatus* (Russet-tipped C.; not in Howard County) in the Coastal Plain.

Locations: Henryton, Cattail, Marriottsville, Murray Hill, Old Frederick, Wincopin, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)