

***Plathemis lydia* Drury**

Common Whitetail

17 Apr-21 Oct

Abundant

42-48 mm (1.7-1.9 in.)

Medium

MALE: Face/Thorax: brown w/ lateral spots/lower stripe. Abdomen: pruinose-white. Wings: wide dark mid-wing bands entirely across each; wingtips clear; white abdominal spot basal of HW. Chunky, maturation in about 2 weeks.

FEMALE: Abdomen: wide, brown w/ lateral yellow (or white) spots. Wings: 3 black spots (do not completely cross wings); wing tips black. Maturation in about 3 weeks.

JUVENILE: Abdomen: like female or brown w/ zigzag interrupted lateral stripe. Wings: banded like male (if male).

Habitat: Anywhere. Shallow sunny seepages; trickles w/ soft mud bottoms, sediment ponds; rivers. Does well in water w/ high organic content. Perches conspicuously on ground, logs, weed stems.

Reproduction: Male is strongly territorial (30-90' near shore); may exhibit mock oviposition when female enters territory. Mating lasts only a few minutes. Female strokes water while male guards. Larvae tolerate poorly oxygenated water or organically polluted water.

Similar Species: Female is similar to female *L. pulchella* (Twelve-spotted S.) but is parallel-sided to S8, then rapidly tapers and has spots (not stripes).

Locations: Alpha Ridge - P1/P3-4/TcP, APL - BP, Atholton, Avalon, Benson Branch, Big Branch, Brown's Bridge, Carmax, Cattail, Cedar Lane, Centennial - L/S/VP, Cent HS, Coca Cola Drive, Corridor, Daniels, David Force, Deep Run, Dorsey Hall, Dunteachin Farm, Elkhorn -FB/L, Coca Cola Drive - BEL/ES, Farm Ponds, Folly Qtr - MS, Font Hill, Fox Chase, Frederick Road, Fulton Schools, Gateway - AE/JM/LP/RF/SM, Guilford GV/P, Gwynn Acres - BR, Henryton, High Ridge, Hipsely Mill - P/R, Homespun, Howard Chapel, Hugg-Thomas #1/#2, Jackson Pond, Kindler - D/OCP, Kittamaquindi, Long Corner - P/PR, Lynn Buff, Manor Woods, Marriottsville, Mayfield Woods – P/GG, Meadowbrook, Meadowridge Bus Park, MPEA - MPR/P1/P2/P4, Milk Plant - LP/Schools, Mission - :US1, Murray Hill, Mount Pleasant, Nichols Cove, North Laurel, Old Frederick, PRSP, Pigtail, Plum Tree, River Hill HS, Rockburn, Savage Mill, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Scott's Cove - BG, Sewell's Orchard, Stanford, Stevens - E/W, Trinity, UMDCF - S, Upper Triadelphia, Vantage Point - S, VFW Pond, Vollmerhausen, Warfield's Pond, Wesley Lane, Wilde Lake, West Friendship, Western Regional, Wincopin, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)