

***Enallagma signatum* (Hagen)**

**Orange Bluet**

**2 May - 14 Oct**

**Common**

**MALE: 28.5-36 mm (1.1-1.4 in.) FEMALE: 28-37.5 (1.1-1.5)**

**Medium**

**MALE:** Eyes: brown/orange. Face: orange. Head: black on top w/ thin ochre band behind eyes. Thorax: orange w/ middorsal/shoulder stripes black. Abdomen: dark; S9 orange. Legs: orange/yellow-orange, may have black stripes. Appendages: cerci black to tan, paraprocts pale.

**FEMALE:** Color forms: Blue, Green, or Orange. Like male except Abdomen: S9 middorsal triangular (rarely square) spot black.

**JUVENILE:** Body marked w/ pale blue; changes to orange from anterior to posterior.

**Habitat:** Widespread in various still or slow-flowing aquatic habitats. Forested ponds/slow-moving streams. Peak activity late in day. On warm, sunny days, species is semicrepuscular; on cloudy or cool days, male may be active throughout day. In summer, arrives about 4 p.m. w/ peak activity at 7 p.m.; leaves water shortly after sundown. Spring/fall, arrives at water earlier in afternoon. Hovers 2 – 8 inches over midstream, occasionally perches on vegetation. Often in association w/ water lilies.

**Reproduction:** Mate perched for about 20 minutes on shore vegetation. Female oviposits in tandem or alone, descend backward down a stem, go under water for 10-20 minutes; if male detaches, male guards area until female surfaces.

**Similar Species:** Juvenile *E. vesperum* (Vesper B.) lacks black shoulder stripe or has only a narrow stripe.

**Locations:** Alpha Ridge, Brown's Bridge, Centennial - L/S/VP/WD, David Force, Dunteaching', Elkhorn - L/FB, Farm Ponds, Font Hill, Gateway - RF& SM, Guilford - GV/Park, Hipsely Mill, Hugg-Thomas WMA, Kittamaquidi, Jackson Pond, Kindler - D, Long Corner - P, Mayfield Woods - GG, Meadowbrook, MPEA - P1/P4, Nichol's Cove, Pigtail, River Hill HS, Savege Park, Schooley Mill, Sewell's Orchard, Vantage Point - S, VFW Pond, Warfield's Pond, Wincopin, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)