

***Aeshna umbrosa umbrosa* Walker**

Shadow Darner

12 Aug – 12 Nov

Common

68-78 mm (2.7-3.1 in.)

Large

MALE: Face: pale green. Thorax: brownish w/ 2 lateral straight narrow greenish-yellow or yellow stripes bordered w/ black. Abdomen: long and slender, deep reddish-brown pattern with small green/blue spots, S3 strong constriction, S4-7 pair of blue spots on under side. Legs: brown. Wings: may be tinged w/ brown. Stigmas: tawny. Appendages: wedge type cerci; paddle w/ spine on ventral tip.

FEMALE: Color forms: Blue or Green. Abdomen: stouter, paler. Wings: often flavescent w/ age.

JUVENILE: FEMALE: abdomen spots blue.

Habitat: Shaded edges of forests; woodland trails. Variety of pond and stream habitats. Hunts forest edges, dirt roads, clearings. In summer feeds over roads about dusk. When overcast, feeds early morning, mid-late afternoon or evening. Late in season flies during sunny periods.

Reproduction: Males patrol just above water. Female oviposits in mud, rotting wood, other dead plant material at or below water surface. Exuviae on emergent plants, stumps. Delayed egg development (diapause).

Notes: Darkens in cool temperatures.

Locations: Centennial - WD, Daniels, Elkhorn - L, Font Hill, Gateway - SM, Guilford Park, Gwynn Acres, Kindler - D, Pigtail, Savage Mill, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Vollmerhausen - IB, MPEA (Clegg meadow), Swansfield.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)