

***Libellula incesta* Hagen**

Slaty Skimmer

23 May - 29 Sep

Common

42-58 mm (1.7-2.3 in.)

Medium

MALE: Eyes: dark brown. Face: black. Body: slate-colored or pruinose black. Wings: long/narrow w/ heavy black venation but male lacks black basal wing streaks. Legs: black. Stigmas: black and may extend around wingtips. Appendages: blackish.

FEMALE: Eyes: red-brown. Abdomen brown or lightly pruinose; S8 laterally expanded, usually brownish. Wings: some lack black basal streaks (only a tiny spot may be present mid-wing); some have smoky color on tips.

JUVENILE: Similar to *L. vibrans* (Great Blue S.) Face: yellowish or brownish. Thorax: a brown triangular marking on the side basal of FW; lateral pale pattern resembles a cartoon wolf. Body: some yellow w/ lateral pale stripe.

Habitat: Sunny sections of permanent ponds. Perches on tops of weeds or twigs. Male most active over water in morning. May approach/investigate humans. Forages along forest edges.

Reproduction: Male perches at top of vegetation and guards territory along shoreline. Mate low on shoreline or on emergent vegetation; mating takes 1/2 - 1 minutes; includes brief perching. Female oviposits alone by flipping water drops while male guards w/ fast flights above. (Female w/ yellow juvenile coloration can oviposit.)

Notes: Old name: Damson Skimmer. Name "Damson" comes from color of ripe plums.

Similar Species: Female *L. incesta*, *L. axilena* (Bar-winged S.), *L. vibrans* (Great Blue S.). Mature male *L. axilena* has bar on FW leading edge and becomes whitish at base of HW.

Locations: Alpha Ridge, Benson Branch, Big Branch, Brown's Bridge, Cattail, Centennial - S/VP, Coca Cola Drive, David Force, Deep Run, Elkhorn – FB/L, Emerson GC, Farm Ponds, Frederick Road, Font Hill, Fox Chase, Fulton Schools, Gateway - JM/RF, Guilford - GV/Park, Gwynn Acres - BR, Henryton, Hipsely Mill, Hollofield, Hugg-Thomas #1/#2, Jackson Pond, Kindler - P/OCP, Long Corner - P, Manor Woods, Mayfield Woods - P/GG, Meadowbrook, MPEA - P1/P2/P4, Milk Plant - LP/Schools, Mission, Mount Pleasant, MPEA – P4, Nichols Drive, Pigtail, River Hill HS, Rockburn, Save Park, Schooley Mill, Sewell's Orchard, Stevens, Trinity, UMDCF - S, Upper Triadelphia, Vantage Point - S, VFW Pond, Vollmerhausen, Warfield's Pond, Wesley Lane, Western Regional, Wincopin.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)