

***Lestes rectangularis* Say**

**Slender Spreadwing**

**18 May - 17 Oct**

**Common**

**MALE: 42-53 mm (1.7-2.1 in.) FEMALE: 37-46.4 (1.5-1.9)**

**Large**

**MALE:** Occiput: black w/ slight pruinosity. Eyes: deep blue. Face: pale aqua to blue. Thorax: coppery-brown above, buffy yellow below; middorsal thin aqua stripe, wide aqua/blue shoulder stripes. Abdomen: long/slender; dorsally dark bronze, pale yellowish below; S3-7 middorsal light brown stripe; little or no pruinosity at tip. Legs: brown/pale w/ black lines. Wings: clear w/ distinctive yellow edges at tips; wings about 1/2 length of abdomen. Stigmas: large dark brown.

**FEMALE:** Similar to male but shorter/stockier; yellow sides of thorax. Basal plate of ovipositor w/ acute corner. Wings appear longer than on male. S7 at least 1.5X length of ovipositor (excluding styli). Tarsi are pale. Crossveins at ends of stigma very dark.

**JUVENILE:** Abdomen: gray-brown.

**Habitat:** Shaded wetlands; swamps, mucky ponds, brooks. Perches in shore vegetation or in woodlands/shrubbery in complete shade. Immatures often not at breeding habitat.

**Reproduction:** Mate for 2-4 minutes. Female oviposits alone or in tandem, often in cattail leaves 1' above water. Delayed egg development (diapause).

**Locations:** Alpha Ridge, Browns Bridge, Centennial - VP, David Force, Farm Ponds, Folly Qtr - MS, Font Hill, Gateway - AE/RF, Gwynn Acres - BR, Hugg=Thomas WMA. Kindler - P, Manor Woods, Meadowbrook, River Hill - HS, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Stevens - E/W, Vantage Point - S, Wesley Lane, Woodstock.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)