

***Lestes australis* Walker**

Southern Spreadwing

12 Apr - 31 Oct

Common

MALE: 36-46 mm (1.4-1.8 in.) FEMALE: 38.5-44 (1.5-1.7)

Medium

MALE: Eyes/Face: blue. Thorax: pale aqua (or blue) shoulder/narrow middorsal stripe. Abdomen: dark; S9-10 w/ white pruinosity but black dorsally. Legs: black, tibia pale. Appendages: black, hairy (2 teeth on superior app).

FEMALE: Nose: turquoise. Thorax: reddish sheen on stripes, lower sides pale to yellow. Abdomen: brown; no pruinosity; S7-9 pale yellow laterally, Stigmas: cross veins at each end are yellow (less noticeable in male).

JUVENILE: Bronze, pale areas dull yellowish.

Habitat: Sand-bottomed lakes; temporary/semi-permanent ponds. Permanent waters w/ abundant emergent vegetation; marshy/boggy ponds, swamps, slow streams. Most active around 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Adults perch on emergent vegetation in wetlands or nearby grassy fields, making short slow flights.

Reproduction: Not territorial. Mate for 10-30 minutes. Female oviposit in tandem on emergent vertical green stems above waterline (sometimes both submerge). Delayed egg development (diapause).

Similar species: *Lestes forcipatus* (Sweetflag S.) female has longer ovipositor; male is even more confusing; safest ID by association w/ female.

Locations: Alpha Ridge - M, Browns Bridge, Centennial - VP, Cent HS, David Force, Elkhorn - FB, Emerson – GC, Font Hill, Gateway - RF/SM, High Ridge, Hugg-Thomas #1, Kindler - D P, Manor Woods, Mayfield Woods - GG, MPEA - P3/P4, River Hill HS, Savage Park, Schooley Mill, Stevens, UMDCF - S, Vantage Point - S.

[Phenograms](#) (pages 2 – 6).

[Locations](#) (in Howard County)

[Identification features and odonate anatomy](#)